The upsurge in violence came two days after the security forces claimed killing 57 LTTE rebels, including a top leader, in weekend battles that also left six Special Task Force commandos dead.

The renewed bloodshed came despite political moves to end the protracted separatist war that has claimed more than 50,000 lives since the birth of the Tamil militant movements in 1972.

Official sources said the government was planning a major onslaught against the LTTE before the onset of monsoon rains in October while the rebels have also announced they were gearing to take on the military.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who has ruled out fresh talks with the LTTE, told newspapers here last week that the military action against the guerrillas was aimed at enforcing her autonomy plan to resolve the ethnic conflict.

The navy is awaiting the delivery of six Israeli-built Dvora class gunboats while the airforce is expecting a fleet of transport and attack helicopters from a Russian supplier, the sources said.

Kumaratunga's peace bid, which seeks to turn Sri Lanka into a federal state in all but name and grant more powers to Tamils in exchange for ethnic peace, is opposed by Tigers as well as radicals among the majority Sinhala community.

The LTTE pulled out of peace talks with Kumaratunga and ended a three-month truce on April 19 to resume its struggle for independence.

Ferry Seized With 121 Passengers

BK3008080295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0745 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Aug 30 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's Tamil separatist guerrillas seized a passenger ferry with 121 Tamil civilians aboard and blew up two navy gunboats which came to its aid, killing all 21 sailors aboard, defence sources here said Wednesday [30 August].

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) anchored the government-chartered vessel, the Iris Mona, off the northeastern coast of Mullaitivu but the fate of passengers was not known, the sources said.

"The navy tried to send more gunboats to see what is going on but they can't get near because the LTTE is firing heavy calibre guns from the coast," a defence source said.

The source said the navy believed the rebels captured the unarmed Iris Mona early Tuesday in a bid to draw the two Israeli-built Dvora gunboats towards their gun positions and destroy them late Tuesday.

"It looks like they got the gunboats to get near the Iris Mona and then used suicide bombers to blast the gunboats," the official said, adding that another patrol boat saw the gunboats "exploding in a ball of fire."

The passengers aboard the ferry were Tamil civilians travelling from the northeastern port of Trincomalee to government-held areas of the island's Jaffna peninsula, where the rebels dominate.

The rebels are opposed to civilians living in areas under the control of government security forces, who have been trying to expand territory on the peninsula under their control.

The LTTE's clandestine radio, the Voice of Tigers, Wednesday accepted responsibility for blasting the two gunboats but made no mention about the ferry.

The spectacular attacks against the navy came only hours after the LTTE killed 10 soldiers and 17 constables in two separate incidents in the island's embattled northern Jaffna peninsula and north-east Trincomalee district.

The soldiers were on foot patrol when they were attacked by the rebels who killed 10 of them in a 45-minute gun battle, the military said. The Tigers said they lost three men.

Earlier, in Trincomalee district, Tiger rebels raided a police station, killing nine constables but lost 22 of their own men, police said. Another 33 rebels were wounded, they said.

Eight other constables were killed when the rebels exploded a land-mine as police were taking away their wounded, police said.

A total of 77 police were admitted to hospital after the at@ack.

The latest upsurge in violence comes only two days after security forces said they killed 57 Tiger rebels, including a top leader, in clashes which also claimed the lives of six Special Task Force commandos.

The LTTE pulled out of peace talks with Kumaratunga and ended a three-month truce on April 19 to resume their struggle for independence.

FOREIGN
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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-168
Wednesday
30 August 1995

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-168 CONTENTS *30 August 1995*

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Praises Israeli-PLO Accord

NC2908130495 Paris AFP in English
1256 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Aug 29 (AFP)—The Arab League on Tuesday [29 August] praised the new accord signed by Israel and the PLO for the transfer of civil powers to the Palestinians.

"The agreement represents a step on the road to implementing the second phase of the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles", signed in September 1993 in Washington, Tal'at Hamid, a league spokesman, told AFP.

The extension of self-rule in the West Bank is 13 months behind the schedule outlined in the Declaration of Principles.

"The accord will help bring negotiations to a close," Hamid added.

Israeli and PLO negotiators resumed talks on Monday at the Israeli port city of Elat on the redeployment of the Israeli army in the West Bank and elections for an autonomy council.

Israeli Measures in Jerusalem Denounced

NC2908150295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1350 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid denounced Israel's closure of three Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem as a serious breach of the 1949 Fourth Geneva Convention, the UN resolutions on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue, and the agreements signed between the PLO and Israel.

In a statement today, 'Abd-al-Majid warned that this Israeli step is a link in a long chain of practices aimed at Judaizing the holy city, divesting it of its Palestinian symbol—the Orient House, erasing all Islamic and Palestinian landmarks, building more settlements, and eliminating the Palestinian presence in the city. He called on the international community, the public, and the two co-sponsors of the peace process—the United States and Russia—to compel Israel to abide by the UN Security Council resolutions, especially resolutions 242, 338, and 252. He noted that resolution 252 affirmed its rejection of the seizure of land by force and any change in the legal status of Jerusalem. He called on Israel to refrain from any act which might change the status of Jerusalem.

'Abd-al-Majid said that by continuing to defy all UN resolutions and charters, Israel is exposing the region to violence and counter-violence and pushing the peace process to the precipice.

Palestinian Affairs

Norway Leaks 'Secret' Papers on PA Fund Misuse

TA3008064395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0405 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Norwegian Foreign Ministry has leaked secret documents dealing with the financial aid provided by the PLO to enhance the status of the Palestinians in East Jerusalem. Our correspondent in Scandinavia Eliyahu Zehavi reports:

[Begin Zehavi recording] The Norwegian Foreign Ministry, which had been complaining that the United States was preventing Norway from looking into the misuse of funds donated to the Palestinian Authority [PA] for the purpose of building an economic infrastructure in Gaza and Jericho, decided to leak to the Norwegian news agency secret documents addressed to 'Arafat and signed by Muhammad Zuhdi al-Nashashibi, the PA's finance minister.

All the documents bear the stamp: Top Secret, Perusal Forbidden Without 'Arafat's Approval. The documents deal with the allocation of money from the Holst Fund, named after the late Norwegian foreign minister. The money was donated to the fund by a long list of countries which were attempting to help the PA after the signing of the Oslo agreement. One of the documents mentions the allocation of $30 million for the purchase of houses and apartments in East Jerusalem, which was put at the disposal of 'Arafat's loyalists. Another $20 million was allocated for so-called secret political activity; namely, financial support to parties loyal to 'Arafat and newspapers with a pro-PLO editorial line. The $50 million taken from the Holst Fund is part of an unknown amount channeled to Jerusalem by the PLO. The secret documents were sent to the United States by Israel.

The Norwegian news agency asks: Was it the Israeli Mosad that passed the documents to the United States? Is the content of the documents genuine or a forgery by the Mosad in a bid to cast the PLO in a negative light? A spokesman for the Norwegian Foreign Ministry would not directly answer the question and sufficed with an ambiguous response. [end recording]

Further on Alleged PLO Funds Abuse

BR3008115595 Oslo ARBEIDERBLADET in Norwegian 29 Aug 95 p 11

[NORSK TELEGRAMBYRA report by Nils-Inge Kruhaug: "Norway Denied Access to Critical PLO Report"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington/Oslo — Norwegian authorities have been denied access to the classified part of an American report which supposedly reveals extensive Palestinian abuse of assistance funds in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

This has occurred despite the fact that Norway holds the chairmanship of the group of international donor countries for the areas.

The donor countries have promised a total of 15 billion kroner in assistance to the Palestinian self-ruling areas until 1999. Norway alone contributed approximately 250 million kroner in 1994 and will contribute a further 400 million kroner in 1995.

Norway therefore sounded the alarm when reports appeared in American and British press in early August to the effect that extensive abuse of assistance funds in the Palestinian self-ruling areas had been detected.

Foreign Ministry documents that have been made available to NORSK TELEGRAMBYRA show how the embassies in Washington and London were assigned to obtain documentation and collect comments to the reports at hand.

Buys up Jerusalem

According to internal documents from the Palestinian Authority's Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction (Pecdar), of which the WASHINGTON TIMES (among others) has copies, PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has secretly allocated 100 million kroner for the purchase of properties in Jerusalem as part of the attempts to make the city the Palestinian capital.

A Pecdar document shows how 'Arafat in addition has used over 77 million kroner to buy apartments in Jerusalem, apartments which reportedly are portioned out to loyal workers within al-Fatah.

Other documents show how the PLO has used 130 million kroner for secret political operations, for example, in the form of support to political parties and a newspaper loyal to the PLO. Still others show how 'Arafat has granted money to friends and family, among others to his mother-in-law.

Intelligence Report

Earlier this spring a British intelligence report concluded that the PLO was good for as much as 65 billion kroner and had annual revenues of as much as 13 billion kroner. On the basis of this report Benjamin Gilman, chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee, asked Congress' own investigative body, GAO, to carry out a study of the PLO's economy.

GAO's report was ready in June, but the CIA took the unusual step demanding that parts of the report become classified. In its capacity as chairman of the group of international donor countries Norway requested a copy of the classified part of the GAO report, but was turned down.

Also the Foreign Relations Committee, represented by Gilman, has had its request for full publication turned down.

'No Access'

"We have not been given access to the classified part of the GAO report. The basis for the refusal was that this is an internal U.S. document," the Foreign Ministry's press spokesman Ingvard Havnen told NORSK TELEGRAMBYRA.

However, U.S. intelligence sources have confirmed to the WASHINGTON TIMES that the classified part of the GAO report confirms the reports of the PLO's wealth which appeared in the British intelligence report.

The U.S. State Department has told Norwegian authorities that no evidence has been found of extensive abuse of assistance funds by the Palestinians and emphasizes that the World Bank has not found any proof of this either. Nor has Norway received evidence from official British sources that abuse has been revealed.

Mosad Forgery?

Norway has chosen to trust the responses that have been received and its own and the World Bank's control mechanisms. Questions are therefore being raised whether the documents which show the abuse are forgeries.

"There have been certain references to Israeli intelligence," said Havnen who did not want to elaborate on this further.

'Arafat Meets U.S. Coordinator Ross in Gaza

JN2908153595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1108 GMT 29 Aug 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat met with Dennis Ross, U.S. special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, at the Presidency in Gaza this morning.

Following the meeting, President 'Arafat said Ross is doing his best to advance Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. President 'Arafat thanked Ross for his efforts to promote the peace process.

For his part, the special U.S. coordinator said he is in Gaza on a private visit to meet President 'Arafat. Ross added that the Palestinian and Israeli sides are making tremendous efforts to achieve peace. Ross pointed out that he participated twice in the ongoing Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. On the possibility of signing an agreement on the implementation of the second phase of the Declaration of Principles agreement, Ross said: We are still working on this.

The U.S. coordinator said he is happy to visit Gaza. The Palestinian and American sides discussed obstacles to the achievement of a final agreement on the second phase of the Declaration of Principles, particularly the issue of the city of Hebron. The two sides also discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations.

Adviser on 'Arafat-Ross Talks

JN2908154095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1010 GMT 29 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, in Gaza, by Yasir 'Atilah, in the studio; from the "With the Midday Events" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] ['Atilah] Mr. Nabil, good day to you.

[Abu-Rudaynah] Welcome.

['Atilah] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the National Authority, met this morning with Dennis Ross, coordinator of the Middle East peace process. What did they discuss?

[Abu-Rudaynah] You know that Ross is on a private visit to the region, and he insisted on visiting President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat]. The two discussed the latest developments in the peace process and the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations. President Abu-'Ammar briefed Ross on the latest developments. The U.S. coordinator reviewed obstacles to the implementation of the agreement, primarily the issue of Hebron and the prisoner release. President Abu-'Ammar explained his view, which says that Hebron must be treated like other Palestinian cities, in keeping with the agreement signed between the government of Israel and the PLO, as a prelude to holding the Palestinian elections. President Abu-'Ammar asserted that there will be no elections under occupation and that Hebron must be treated like other Palestinian cities in line with the agreement, as I have just mentioned. Ross stressed his support for the peace process and said he will continue his efforts to bridge the gap between the Palestinians and Israelis. As you know, Ross met twice with the heads of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations in Elat, and he is expected to meet Peres shortly. Ross left here 10 minutes ago. As I told you, the Americans want an agreement to be reached as soon as possible, and the Palestinian side also wants this.

['Atilah] Since you mentioned that Ross will meet Foreign Minister Peres, has 'Arafat asked Ross to convey any specific message to the Israeli foreign minister?

[Abu-Rudaynah] The message is very clear: We want an agreement based on justice and on the implementation of the previous agreements and Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank as a prelude to holding the Palestinian elections as soon as possible.

['Atilah] Did 'Arafat and Ross discuss any possibility for solving the major issues, such as the prisoners and arrangements in the city of Hebron? What is the attitude of the president of the Palestinian Authority?

[Abu-Rudaynah] There is a general agreement to delay these two issues until the expected meeting between 'Arafat and Rabin. No date has been set yet for the meeting. However, the committees and working teams are still doing their job. Some issues will remain to be discussed by 'Arafat and Rabin.

['Atilah] My final question. Can we say that this negotiating round in Elat is the last before the meeting of the two leaders?

[Abu-Rudaynah] We hope so, although it seems a bit difficult. We hope that we will reach an agreement as soon as possible in the next two weeks to secure Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank as a prelude to the elections and to pursue the peace process.

['Atilah] Mr. Nabil Abu-Rudaynah, adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, thank you.

[Abu-Rudaynah] You are welcome.

Reaction to Israeli Closure of Offices Reported

Officials Criticize Policy

JN2908152595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has asked the Palestinian delegation to the Elat talks to discuss the Israeli occupation forces' decision to close three Palestinian institutions in occupied Arab Jerusalem, the military closure of the Jericho area, and the issue of visitors who are unable to leave the Gaza Strip.

It is noteworthy that the Israeli occupation forces decided to allow all women as well as men over the age of 35 to travel between Jericho and the occupied West Bank and to bring in goods, particularly agricultural produce.

Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file, warned against Israel's feverish campaign against national institutions in the holy city. He added: If Israel continues to pursue this policy, no agreements will be reached and the peace process will eventually come to an end.

In another development, Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and spokesman, said: The citizens are suffering at the Erez checkpoint. Similarly, they are suffering from the closure of the Jericho area. The closure and siege imposed by the occupation authorities have greatly harmed the citizens and further aggravated the deteriorating economic situation in Gaza and Jericho. Kanafani added: We are not only faced with stalemated negotiations with the Israelis, but also with Israel's relinquishment of its previously agreed-upon obligations. President 'Arafat's adviser called on the Israeli Government to reconsider the policy of closing the Palestinian Authority areas, and to comply with agreements concluded with the Palestinians.

Media Chief Protests to Israeli Minister

JN2908151095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Colleague Radwan Abu-'Ayyash [chairman of the Palestinian Radio and Television Corporation] has submitted a protest memorandum to Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal against closing his office in occupied Arab jerusalem.

Abu-'Ayyash said that if this protest memorandum is rejected, he will submit a petition to the Supreme Court of Justice.

Paper: Acts Render Peace 'Mere Illusion'

TA3008035795 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Aug 95 p 13

[Editorial: "Jerusalem — A Red Line"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday's decision by Israeli Police Minister Moshe Shahal to close three Palestinian institutions in occupied Arab Jerusalem affirms that the Israeli Government is not limiting itself to the feverish campaign that it has launched for some time against Palestinian establishments in the city after isolating it from the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories. This campaign has taken place with the participation of the radical Israeli right wing and the settler gangs who have roamed the streets of occupied Jerusalem and whose armed members have staged a series of attacks and provocations and have even opened fire, without consideration or punishment, within eyesight and earshot of the Israeli Police and "the government of law."

The Israeli Government is not limiting itself to all the restrictive methods practiced by consecutive Israeli Governments and Jerusalem's municipality since 1967 against the city's Palestinian residents. Those methods, first and foremost, have sought to strike at the Palestinian presence in and uproot as many Palestinians as possible from Jerusalem by preventing them from building, by demolishing as many of their homes as possible, and by harassing them with various kinds of taxes. In return, their lands were confiscated and tens of thousands of housing units for settlers were built until the number of settlers in occupied Jerusalem is now almost equal to that of the original Palestinians.

Thus, it has become clear now more than ever that Labor and Likud are actually the two faces of the same coin with regard to many fundamental issues in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, foremost of all the Jerusalem issue.

With the beginning of the Labor Party government — which raises the slogan of making peace with the Palestinians — implementation of the policy of closing Palestinian institutions, it has been revealed that the so-called "peace government" in Israel is the same government that has now placed the greatest obstacle in the way of progress in the peace process. It has done so by its insistence on Judaizing Jerusalem with all the grave consequences that this entails, by its flagrant disregard not only for international legitimacy and its resolutions but also for the peace process, and by violating the agreements it signed with the Palestinian side through its insistence on deciding the future of Jerusalem unilaterally, whereby Jerusalem will not only become Israel's capital but a Jewish city in which the Palestinians will be marginal and without any effect.

This is the stance of the current Israeli Government which boasts about the slogans of peace, but Shahal and above all Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and all members of the so-called "Ministerial Committee on Jerusalem Affairs," who planned and have begun implementing the Judaization scheme, should realize that Jerusalem is a red line for the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nations and that achievement of peace with them will remain a mere illusion if Israel continues its flagrant schemes, which violate all the principles of justice, rightness, and dignity.

In short, Israel will be making a serious mistake if its illusion of making peace by infringing on the Palestinian people's legitimate rights is enhanced, and if it continues its attempts to draw the map of this peace by relying on the logic of the occupation's force. Just as a reminder, this logic's failure and defeat have been proved in the different historical experiences. If Israel is betting on the time factor by this logic, it will definitely realize sooner or later that peace is something completely different from the dreams of annexation and expansion.

Israel's 'Obstruction' of Travel Denounced

JN2908160995 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A responsible source in the National Authority today denounced the Israeli occupation forces' deliberate obstruction of the Palestinian citizens' travel abroad.

The source said this measure, which was accompanied by inhuman and unethical practices, has prevented some citizens from reaching their workplaces in Arab and foreign states.

The responsible source added that these acts are deliberate and planned and have serious repercussions on the overall peace process. He said: We hold the Israeli side fully responsible for these acts, and we demand the Israeli Government take immediate measures to stop the provocative acts against our citizens and facilitate their movement and travel to their workplaces and universities in implementation of what was agreed upon in the peace accord.

Security Service Foils Suicide Attack

TA2908172895 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Security Service in Gaza tonight foiled a suicide attack planned for the central bus station in Jerusalem. The Palestinian Security Service tonight detained a 22-year-old Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] member carrying an explosive device as he was making his way to the site of the planned bombing. Four other Hamas members were captured at the same time.

Our correspondent Yoram Kohen has learned that the Palestinian Security Service today apprehended Hamas activists who had planned to assassinate prominent Palestinians.

Hamas Warns 'Arafat Against Arrest Campaign

JN2908181295 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1630 GMT 29 aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, issued a statement after a court of 'Arafat's authority issued unfair rulings against the mujahidin. The statement says: The movement warns the authority of the self-rule not to continue to bow to the enemy's desires and to pursue the policy of killing our people to satisfy the government of terrorist Rabin. It also warns that authority not to hand over any mujahid or citizen in Gaza and Jericho to the occupation authorities.

In its statement, Hamas asserted to Rabin and those who have agreed to implement his policy that all acts of killing, arrest, trying, and torture will not prevent our people from continuing their brave resistance.

It is noteworthy that 'Arafat's court sentenced strugglers 'Abd- al-Majid Dudin and Rashid al-Khatib to 12 and 7 years in prison respectively. 'Arafat's authority is also launching a large-scale campaign to chase mujahid Yahya 'Ayyash, known as The Engineer, after receiving alleged Zionist information that he is in the Gaza Strip.

New Anti-Hamas 'Action Plan'

TA2908151895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian Police have detained over 30 Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in southern Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that some of the detentions were made on the basis of information received from Israel.

The Palestinian Police have formulated a new anti-Hamas action plan in the wake of the exposure of the Hamas terrorist network in Judaea and Samaria which was responsible for the bombings on the Ramat Gan and Jerusalem buses. A Palestinian Police source says the police are continuing the manhunt for the terrorist Yahya 'Ayyash, alias the Engineer.

Hamas Spokesman Interviewed on Arrests

NC2908195795 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 29 Aug 95

[Telephone interview with Hamas official spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Correspondent] Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, what is your comment on the random arrests in Jericho, including the arrest of two persons whom the Zionist entity claims are responsible for the Zionist bus bombing in Jerusalem?

[Ghawshah] As a matter of fact, the arrests are continuing everywhere and are not confined to Jericho. As was reported, two members of the al-Qassam battalions were arrested in Jericho and given jail sentences. The search is underway for a third person. The arrests in the West Bank are continuing, numbering over 100. In the Gaza Strip, the Palestinian Authority [PA] is also carrying out a campaign of arrests. Last night units from the preventive security and from the presidential security arrested Hamas youths in the al-Amal quarter in Khan Yunus. These concurrent operations by the PA and the Zionist occupation authorities prove that the PA's mission is almost identical to the occupation authorities. They also prove that the tough foes of the Zionists are the Islamists whom Rabin is trying to finish off as soon possible to improve his image ahead of the election campaign.

[Correspondent] Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, what is your comment on the Zionist entity's decision to close three Palestinian institutions in Jerusalem?

[Ghawshah] We view it as a grave decision. We expect that these controls and closures of Palestinian institutions will increase. This is part of a plan to impose full Zionist control on all Jerusalem, including Islamic Arab Jerusalem. Regrettably, the PA's reply was furtive and timid. Instead of stopping the talks in Elat, it suspended them for a few hours and then resumed them as if the grave measures in Jerusalem and elsewhere are unimportant.

[Correspondent] Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, what does the agreement on the transfer of powers between the Zionist entity and the PLO mean to Hamas? What is your stand on this agreement?

[Ghawshah] The agreement on the transfer of powers is one annex of the second part of the Oslo accord. They are preparing to celebrate the signing of the second part in Washington next month. The transfer of powers in eight areas was signed in Cairo a few days ago. This measure eases burdens on the Zionist entity by shifting them to the PA. The first and last authority for these civilian administrations are the Zionist occupation authorities Therefore, they are performing the role of a loyal employee.

[Correspondent] Mr. Ibrahim Ghawshah, can you put us in the picture on the latest situation?

[Ghawshah] As I have told you, there are constant campaigns by the Zionist occupation in the West Bank and Jerusalem, climaxing, as you know, in the assassination of two of al-Qassam battalions' strugglers. They are martyrs al-Qawasimah and Shihadah who were martyred on Friday. The house in which they were staying was demolished. Our Muslim Arab people in Hebron immediately showed solidarity with the mujahidin and began rebuilding this house. The arrest campaign continues everywhere in the West Bank. This is the situation in the West Bank. Rabin is trying to send messages to the Jews inside the Zionist entity that he is doing his duty as best he can and is directing blows at so-called terrorism. But we in the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, affirm that these confrontations and arrests will not deflect our struggling people from pursuing the course of struggle and jihad.

As for the autonomous areas in the Gaza Strip, as I have mentioned, the arrests yesterday were concentrated in Khan Yunus. The persecutions continue. There is a continuing and feverish search for great struggler Yahya 'Ayyash. The PA is trying to do a big service to the Zionist occupation by trying to arrest him. This hero has become one of the symbols of our people in Palestine. [passage omitted]

Hamas Said 'on the Verge' of Establishing Party

TA2908130495 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 25 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-NAHAR has learned from reliable sources that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is on the verge of announcing the establishment of a political party. The movement has completed all the administrative measures, but it is still awaiting an improvement in the general political climate.

A temporary management board for the expected party was recently chosen, which will function until internal elections are conducted.

Movement Head Describes 'Palestinian Islamic Front'

TA2908181795 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 26 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by 'Imad al-Ifranji]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Gaza — The establishment of the Palestinian Islamic Front [al-jabhah al-filastiniyah al-islamiyah], headed by Shaykh Salih 'Abd- al-'Al, who currently lives in Algeria, was officially announced yesterday. The announcement was made during a press conference held by the movement's leaders at the Arab Journalists Union in Gaza.

During the press conference Mithqal Abu-Taha read a statement and Dr. 'Ayish 'Abd-al-'Al made a speech in which he said that this front is not a splinter group from any Palestinian or Islamic organization, is not affiliated with anyone, does not stand on a non-Palestinian background, and has no connection with any other Palestinian organization.

He added: We stem from an Islamic concept that works efficiently on the land of Palestine. We have our own special ideological, organizational, and operational views.

'Abd-al-'Al did not express the Islamic Front's true position on recognition of Israel and the operations. He said: We are a political movement and have our own position regarding any military action. Our effort is aimed at closing the Palestinian ranks and preserving stability inside the borders of the National Authority [NA]. [passage omitted].

The front's leaders explained that they have an agreement in principle from the NA to obtain a license for a political party. The Islamic Front believes that the Oslo accord has not given back the right to its owners and that it has not lifted the oppression imposed on the Palestinian people. The front's leaders, however, did not clearly say whether they support or oppose the accord. With regard to their participation in the NA's elections, they explained that they will have their marked presence in all institutions of the Palestinian house.

National Grouping Leader al-Shak'ah Interviewed

95AA0221A Gaza AL-ISTIQLAL in Arabic 7 Jul 95 p 6

[Interview with Palestinian National Grouping leader Bassam al-Shak'ah by 'Asri Fayyad; place and date not given: "Hafiz al-Asad Promised Me To Solve Problem of Ban on Occupied Territory Residents Entering Syria; Opposition Forces Reject Cooperating With Administrative Elections for Self-Rule; Detainees Wonder Why the Oslo Agreement and This Peace Happened"—first paragraph is AL-ISTIQLAL introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] In his interview with AL-ISTIQLAL, Bassam al-Shak'ah, former mayor of Nabulus and leader of the opposition Palestinian National Grouping, stressed the importance of uniting Palestinian opposition forces to counter the Oslo Agreement. He stressed that the opposition forces reject administrative self-rule elections and that progress must be made on the issue of prisoners and detainees, who can be considered the main victims of the Oslo agreement.

[Fayyad] Brother Abu Nidal, the Palestinian National Grouping opposed to the Oslo Agreement and its consequences, the one announced at the end of February—at what point has it arrived? Is it the other face of the 10 Palestinian forces?

[Al-Shak'ah] As is well known, the Grouping really came about in response to the disunity of the anti-Oslo forces and also in response to the existence of an opposition abroad without any influence inside the occupied territory. The Grouping was at first a gathering of these forces to confront the Oslo agreements. At the same time, it was a unification of these forces inside the country and abroad. Also, it paralleled the Palestinian Nation Democratic Union in Jordan in uniting these forces inside the country and abroad and making them effective where they are present. We want there to be a unified leadership for these combined and united forces, so that we can fill the vacuum that exists as a result of the deviation of the Palestine Authority and its arrival in the self-rule areas. The scene abroad lacks national action on such issues as the refugees and on Palestinian relations with Arab countries, Arab liberation forces, Islamic countries, and Islamic liberation forces. Naturally, we are interested in the Palestinian issue as a central issue for our Arab nation, Islamic forces, Islamic peoples, and the forces of liberation in the world. As everyone knows, by signing the Oslo agreements, the Palestinian leadership opened the door wide for Israel to fill this vacuum, taking advantage of weak points and the anti-Israel positions that preceded Oslo.

[Fayyad] During your recent visit to Damascus, you held meetings with representatives of the anti-Oslo Palestinian factions. What were the results? How do you assess these meetings? Is there any vision for unifying the opposition Palestinian voice and developing it at home and abroad?

[Al-Shak'ah] In fact, my going to talk with national groupings and figures abroad had a big impact on the Palestinian scene. Its results were very good in terms of the process of unifying opposition forces at home and abroad—not just creating a unified position, but making these groupings abroad and at home effective. Of course, the weight of the 10-force coalition was Syria and Lebanon. There were some disagreements between the 10 forces and the opposition national groupings in Jordan. We were able to bring the viewpoints of these two sides closer together, make the three groupings more effective, and link them in unity and effectiveness to opposition forces in the occupied territories on the path toward achieving comprehensive unity. We got a statement from the 10 factions supporting the Palestinian Grouping inside the country, calling on the masses to rally to it, and holding this grouping and the 10 factions to be complementary to each other. This is a result that we reached. However, the agreement was on the basis that, when I returned here, talks would take place on the basis of the proposals of the 10 forces and the proposals of the national groupings in Amman. God willing, the results will be positive and immediate in terms of unity of position at home and abroad.

[Fayyad] A meeting of the first conference of the opposition Palestinian National Grouping was scheduled for 16 June but did not take place. Do you intend to hold this conference? When and where?

[Al-Shak'ah] In fact, during discussion of the fundamental declaration, we reached the position that we would announce the Grouping's establishment through a conference that would adopt the slogan, "Jerusalem and the Land." We formed a preparation committee to get ready for the conference.

Then came the Bayt Lid operation and the arrests in the ranks of Hamas and al-Jihad by occupation authorities. The arrests were especially widespread among the brothers in Hamas. The prevailing atmosphere forced us to halt the conference activities and instead to make our establishment known through practical political action. It became clear that there were critical developments in the Arab world, including the four-party summit attended by Rabin. The event demanded that we not stand without comment, so we issued the first statement.

The Executive Committee meeting in Gaza with those who attended it was also a critical situation demanding a stand from us. That was how the next statement was issued.

Thus, the Grouping was announced in a practical way by means of action. My visit to Damascus and Amman and my meeting with opposition national groupings, forces, and figures had a practical importance above that of the conference. The conference will come later.

[Fayyad] While in Damascus, you met Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and the Syrian leadership. During these meetings was there any discussion of the measures taken regarding Palestinian residents of the occupied territory?

[Al-Shak'ah] We discussed the matter with Syrian officials. They said that the measures were taken for two reasons.

First, there were sabotage rings sent from here to Syria to engage in sabotage. The motive behind the measures was security: to prevent these people from infiltrating Syria.

Second, they were to prevent Palestinian immigration from the occupied territory into Syria. This matter was the main subject of my meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad. I informed him that Palestinian brothers were being hurt in practice by these measures. I explained to him what Syrian officials had said to me and made it clear to him that this would have harmful political effects. Naturally one cannot ignore Syria's security policy, but this is not the way to guarantee security, because the only person hurt is the well-meaning Palestinian, who feels bitter about these measures, and the person who harbors long-standing warm relations due to Arab and Islamic relations. In particular, there are thousands of Palestinian students from the occupied territories studying in Syria. Syria is to be thanked for absorbing so many of our sons as students. There are also many deportees and refugees. President Hafiz al-Asad promised me that he would discuss the matter at the first meeting with the leadership and would make an appropriate decision.

[Fayyad] Abu al-Za'im says he is coming. Some are trying to deny it. Do you think Abu al-Za'im's coming as a high security official on the West Bank will be a sign of the future of the expression of opinion and freedom of speech?

[Al-Shak'ah] I really do not attach importance to what is said about Abu al-Za'im. Many are playing the role that Abu al-Za'im is going to play. We know names in the Central Committee. We used to attach hopes to their ideas and their alert view of the Palestinian problem, but they became part of the Palestine Authority's policy and are doing Abu al-Za'im's work.

The policy that Abu al-Za'im represents and his connection to the forces allied with the United States and Israel have now become the PLO's official policy. I do not think his return is unlikely, but I do not think it is important.

As for elections, the opposition forces think that the elections are administrative, not legislative. The position is to have nothing to do with them on the ground that they are administrative elections. However, if the elections are legislative, we are ready to deal separately with them.

In fact, I doubt that the elections will take place while talk goes on about a normalization process. If they cannot stage elections for an administrative council, I think elections will not take place. That is because a legislative council is unacceptable to the Palestine Authority and to the Israelis. A legislative council could amend, change, or violate the Oslo agreement. This conflicts with the Oslo agreement's method, which is to be an inviolable and unchangeable limit. Therefore, neither the Palestine Authority nor Israel can allow any change or amendment of these agreements. We have before us examples of municipal elections at a lower level than the elections supposed to be held, yet Israel did not allow them to be held, and even the Palestine Authority did not allow them in the area of its presence. Why haven't they held elections in Gaza and Jericho or in Nablus? I think it is because elections could bring forth people who would break with the policy on which they agree with Israel. I also doubt that elections for a legislative council will take place as long as conditions are not ripe for producing a council like the one that Israel and the Palestine Authority want.

[Fayyad] How do you view the prisoner issue, today's hottest issue, and the solidarity with it, especially by means of bloody confrontations with the occupation authorities?

[Al-Shak'ah] There has never been movement regarding any issue like what has happened with regard to the prisoner issue. That is because there is no one to speak about settlements like the detainees who get burnt, suffer, and ask why Oslo and the alleged peace took place while they are still in prisons. All the issues—settlements, the iron fist, Jerusalem, and the occupation—these are the outcome of Palestinian problems; but when it comes to the detainees, there are people struggling for their freedom and their cause. Therefore, the issue of the detainees has become more prominent, but it is no less important than the remaining other issues.

The hunger strike aroused the entire people. All of us are deprived of freedom—they as prisoners, we under the occupation. Therefore, they are our sons, and there is common ground between us in the loss of freedom.

Whoever neglects the detainees' freedom is negligent about his own freedom, for they are the vanguard who struggled and are struggling for everyone's freedom and independence.

So I think something that needs to be considered is who is responsible for the continued imprisonment of the detainees and for the continued settlement. Is it Israel alone? Again I say that responsibility also falls on the Oslo agreements and those who signed the Oslo agreement. So I think the public should call on the Palestine Authority to suspend negotiations. Does the Palestine Authority agree with the Israeli concept of arresting Palestinians and making Jerusalem Jewish? If it does not agree, it must at least suspend negotiations. Israel is interested only in Israel's security and interests; it is not interested in the freedom or rights of Palestinians. Where is the position of the Authority on these things? The Authority should halt the negotiations—that is the effective way to free the prisoners—if it aims at the interests and rights of Palestinians. Otherwise, Palestinians have the right to know that this Authority cannot be trusted with their interests. Perez opposes Israel's intention to release 10 women and 20 other prisoners. Israel is engaging in this issue so as not to relinquish the most minute affairs of our daily lives. Israel wants to monitor our daily affairs and monitor the Palestine Authority to maintain its security at the expense of our security, rights, and future. That is why negotiations should at least be halted until the prisoners at least are released, until settlement is halted on the basis of an implied acknowledgment of the illegality of settlement, and until the Judaizing of Jerusalem is halted on the basis of an implied acknowledgment of the illegality of the process.

Al-Shak'ah: Israel Wants Palestinian Ghettos

TA3008042395 (Internet) AL-AKHBAR in English 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nablus — Bassam al-Shak'ah, the last elected mayor of Nabulus and Secretary General of the recently formed Palestine Alignment [Palestinian National Grouping], has been among the most outspoken critics of the Oslo Accords and the way Palestinian-Israeli negotiations are being conducted. Shak'ah recently spoke to the East Jerusalem Arabic language weekly "AL-BAYADIR AL-SIYASI." The following are excerpts of what he said:

Q. How would [you] evaluate the various rounds of Palestinian Israeli negotiations concerning the implementation of the second phase of the Oslo Accords?

A. These negotiations are meant to accelerate the normalization process, and (PA [Palestinian Authority] Chairman Yasir 'Arafat) has no power over what is going on. It is no secret that the Oslo Accords are the worse that our people could face, and all these rounds of negotiations are only media and public relations events, because the real decisions are taken secretly.

Q. How do you view the attempted revival of the East Jerusalem municipal council?

A. Reviving the council is seemingly good, but announcing the matter by the PA and carrying out the task by official PA decree means that the council revival will be limited by autonomy agreements. Hence, we demand that the revival of the council be through popular struggle and directed against the Judaization of the town and the attempted obliteration of its Arab-Muslim identity.

Q. How would [you] evaluate the role of the opposition in this sensitive period?

A. Frankly, the opposition has not been able to stand up to the level of challenges facing our national cares. In order for the opposition to be more effective, it will have to put up a united and concerted effort to resist the implementation of these conspiratorial agreements. This would require that the opposition fill in the vacuum which resulted from the fact that the PA is subjugated by and subjected to the Israeli occupation authorities. Moreover, the opposition would have to intensify its struggle against such central issues as Jerusalem, the settlements, the refugees, and , of course, the partitioning of our homeland into scattered ghettos. In short, the Palestinian cause must be reverted to its nationalist, Arab, Muslim and international dimensions.

Q. There are growing fears in the Occupied Territories that the implementation of the second phase of the Oslo Accords will lead to isolated cantons here and there in the West Bank.

A. That will undoubtedly happen, as this is the Zionist scheme of dispersing our people into scattered communities and surrounding Palestinian population centres with settlement on all sides. The philosophy of self-rule forming the Israeli perspective is based on the perpetuation of Israeli occupation in most of the Occupied Territories while confining Palestinian authorities to civilian and religious matters. This would obviously enable Israel to avoid the dangers of "bi-nationalism."

Q. The economic situation within the autonomous enclave has not improved despite all the promises of the donor countries. Do you believe these countries are sincere in their promises?

A. Most of the pledges made by the donor countries have been dwarfed to one-sixth of their original, and very little has been delivered. The assistance being given today is very selective and takes place in the absence of a comprehensive economic programme that would meet the economic problems of our people. Unfortunately, one could easily detect ill-will on the part of the donor countries and mismanagement on the part of the autonomy authority.

Q. Finally, what has become of the PLO. Do you feel that the organization has been reduced to an ineffective symbolic and toothless body?

A. The PLO has not vanished; but the PA has negated its role and weakened its institutions. That is why I believe the opposition should struggle against Oslo in order to revive the PLO so that it can merit once again its once credible title as the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Shaykh Denies Islamists Seeking To Topple Rabin

TA2908145695 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 25 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Majid al-'Aruri]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ramallah — Shaykh Hasan Yusuf, who is close to the Islamic movement, has denied some news media reports to the effect that the Islamic movement seeks to topple Rabin's government and allow the Likud to form the next Israeli Government.

Yusuf stressed that the Islamists do not differentiate between the Labor Party and the Likud because they are two faces of one coin. They seek to circumvent Palestinian rights over land, holy shrines, and life and block every path to those who wish to return from the diaspora.

Shaykh Hasan Yusuf welcomed every effort aimed at the achievement of inter-Palestinian peace. He noted that the dialogue had stopped after the detention of the Islamic movement's representatives in the dialogue.

The Islamic official called on the Palestinian Authority [PA] to stop arresting the Islamic movement's sons, release the detainees, and permit the renewed publication of the AL-WATAN newspaper so that a suitable climate for the resumption of the dialogue can be created.

Shaykh Hasan Yusuf emphasized that the Islamic movement is not dependent on any party and does not allow anyone — be it a country or an organization — to impose on it a view or a tendency, because its decision is independent.

Shaykh Yusuf reiterated that the Islamic movement will not vie with anyone, especially the PA, in the talks and will not offer itself as an alternative for any party. He affirmed, however, that with its presence in the Palestinian reality, the Islamic movement will not abandon its principles and views on solving the Palestinian problem.

He stressed that the removal of the phenomena of violence requires the removal of many obstacles, including the dismantling of settlements, releasing the prisoners, ending the occupation, and ensuring the right of return for Palestinians dispersed throughout the globe.

In conclusion, Shaykh Yusuf condemned the assassination attempt against Dr. 'Abd-al-Sattar Qasim. He strongly rejected the notion that the language of weapons can be a substitute for the language of understanding and dialogue and called for striking resolutely on the hands of those playing with the security of Palestinian society.

Envoy: Hebron Not To Be Excluded in Redeployment

TA2908140595 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 28 Aug 95 p 8

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Umar al-Khatib, ambassador plenipotentiary of the state of Palestine in Jordan, declared that the meeting of the committee dealing with the displaced will be held in Amman on 12 September. He described the committee's recent meeting in Gaza as fruitful and said that there is continuous progress in the discussions on the agreed-upon agenda.

With regard to the redeployment talks, the Palestinian ambassador affirmed that Israel will withdraw from four Palestinian towns — Janin, Nabulus, Tulkarm, and Qalqilyah — immediately upon the signing of the agreement in Washington. As for withdrawal from Ramallah, Bethlehem, and Hebron, it has been agreed that the Israelis will withdraw from these towns within six months at the latest. This means that there is a timetable for withdrawal from these cities. In the agreement with the Palestinian side, Hebron will not be excluded from the towns that Israel is to abandon. The Palestinian side relies on the Oslo accord which underscores Israeli withdrawal from populated areas.

The Palestinian ambassador affirmed that the talks are being conducted in very difficult circumstances, although some progress has been achieved, especially in the sphere of empowerment to the Palestinians in the West Bank.

League Envoy Says PA Wants 'Confederacy' With Jordan

NC3008081395 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 27 Aug 95 p 5

[Report by 'Ali Khamis]

[FBIS Translated Text] Ambassador Muhammad Subayh, Palestine's permanent representative to the Arab League, has stated that his country is trying to establish a confederacy with Jordan after the peace process. The Palestinian representative denied that the Palestinian entity will be merged with Jordan through the proposed confederacy. He noted the independence of the Jordanian and Palestinian entities. Subayh also noted the Palestinian Authority's [PA] adherence to establishing a confederacy with Jordan to create an influential economic and political power in confronting Israel.

Palestine's representative to the Arab League said Israel strongly opposes setting up a Palestinian-Jordanian confederacy. He expressed his hope that the cordon states will join the proposed confederacy, that is Egypt, Syria, and Lebanon, with the aim of creating a new Arab economic and political power capable of dealing with the changes created by the peace process. Palestine's representative clarified that the new confederacy does not represent a bloc against any Arab axis, but is a nucleus for launching the comprehensive Arab unity for which Palestine has been calling since the Balfour Declaration of 1917.

Ambassador Muhammad Subayh warned against the Israeli expansionist trend the objective of which is to seize control of Arab land and water. He noted that Israel is trying hard to deal blows to any Arab grouping so that it can become the focus of the region, despite its size, cultural heritage, and dealings with the countries in the region not qualifying it to perform this role.

Palestine's representative to the Arab League pointed out that Israel's sources of power are still pumped in from abroad. He said that Israel borrows tens of billions of dollars from the U.S. Treasury. And Israel's manpower also continues to be pumped in from abroad with successive batches of immigrants. Subayh called on the United States and Europe to direct the generous aid they give Israel to the developing and poor countries in Africa.

Sources Say Qaddumi's Visit to Damascus 'Failure'

TA2908154795 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 25 Aug 95 p 3

[Report by special AL-QUDS correspondent]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — Sources in the Palestinian opposition have affirmed that the recent visit to Damascus by Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department and member of the Executive Committee, was a failure.

These sources said that Talal Naji, deputy secretary of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, and Khalid al-Fahum, head of the Salvation Front, expressed immense wariness at the meetings with Qaddumi and that not even minimal agreement was reached between the two sides.

The sources noted that Qaddumi had not held any contacts with those who split from Fatah in view of the fact that Fatah is still imposing a veto on the issue of cooperating with them. As for officials of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, they expressed cautious reservation about the plan proposed by Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], especially with regard to his national program.

The sources added that Syrian officials still consider Qaddumi in charge of Palestinian President Yasir

'Arafat's (foreign affairs department) and head of PECDAR [Palestinian Economic Council for Development and Reconstruction], which is affiliated with the Palestinian National Authority.

It is worth noting that Qaddumi visited Damascus recently to present his plan, which he called the phased national program for reform, and propose it to the Palestinian factions and the Syrian Government.

Fatah Murderer Claims Acting on al-Rujub's Orders

TA2908184195 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Aug 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Fatah activist Samir Abu-Hajallah, who was convicted of aiding and abetting a murder today, claims he was acting on the orders of Jibril al-Rujub, chief of the Palestinian Security Service in Jericho.

Our Army affairs correspondent Alon Ben-David reports that the Nabulus Court sentenced Abu-Hajallah to 15 years in prison for aiding in the assassination of a Tulkarm District village mukhtar.

Al-Najah Students Mourn Martyrs

95AA0221B Gaza AL-ISTIQLAL in Arabic 7 Jul 95 p 5

[Unattributed article: "Student Blocs Eulogize Martyrs Who Showed Solidarity With the Prisoner Movement"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Nablus (Special to AL-ISTIQLAL) -- With the participation of all the student blocs of al-Najah National University, a large commemorative gathering was held last Saturday [1 July] for the three martyrs who met their deaths on Sunday, 25 June, near Junayd Prison in the march to show solidarity with prisoners for freedom in their continued hunger strike campaign, the spark of the strategic action. The commemoration began with a greeting to the martyrs and those in attendance by the gathering's officers, Hisham Duwaykat (representing the Youth Bloc) and Mu'adh Bilal (representing the Islamic Bloc). A student then chanted verses of the Koran for the souls of the martyrs.

Dr. Muhammad Hannun came forward to speak for the university administration. He congratulated the martyrs and thanked the organizers of the gathering, adding: "We are faced with the task of completing the mission of Wa'il, 'Imad, Shadi, and the other martyrs. We must persist in the good work and avoid disagreement."

The next speech, on behalf of the Student Youth Movement, greeted the three martyrs and stated that their remembrance on this unforgettable day a week after their martyrdom coincided with continued battles to show solidarity with prisoners and detainees. "This people," it continued, "that has risen with the determination of revolutionaries, can only yield or subside when its hopes and aspirations for liberation are realized in the building of a free state on national soil with its capital at Jerusalem, the holy of holies."

The speech then reviewed the fine career and academic excellence of the three martyrs and promised them that their pure blood should never be dishonored.

Shaykh Hamid al-Baytawi then came forward to speak for the Islamic Movement and the Islamic Bloc. He welcomed the attendance of those who had come in spite of the military barricades that the occupation authorities had erected. He added: "We did not come here to weep for the martyrs; for one does not weep for martyrs. Nor do we say that they fell, but rather that they rose into the heights."

Shaykh al-Baytawi spoke about the martyrs' excellence. "Our battle with the occupation," he said, "did not end with these martyrs. It will continue until the Jews depart from our land. One should not think that only a few thousand are prisoners; the Palestinian people are in a big prison. Solidarity with the prisoners does not take place by hunger strikes and commemorative gatherings; rather, the Islamic nation must lay out a strategy to pull up the occupation by its roots."

He ended his speech by emphasizing unity, closing ranks, intensifying efforts, and avoiding internecine fighting.

The families of the three martyrs then spoke. They congratulated all the martyrs, thanked the organizers of the meeting, and recounted the glorious deeds of the martyrs.

Next, a representative of the Progressive Student Action Front spoke. He said: "The massacre that the occupation's Zionist soldiers committed against the heroes of al-Najah University will remain a new blot of shame on the brow of the occupation that has usurped our land." He added that the three heroic martyrs who rose to express solidarity with their brothers and comrades imprisoned in the jails of the occupation in their illustrious battle, the battle of the hunger strike, made the ultimate sacrifice for their brothers and comrades.

He added that the strategic step that the detainees and prisoners were continuing should be considered a strategic turning point in the history of imprisonment.

The statement concluded with a promise to the martyrs—and to all martyrs—to remain faithful to their pure blood by struggling until our legitimate rights, for which tens of thousands of martyrs have fallen, are realized.

The Islamic Society's speech made the following points:

"At a time when the prisoner issue has become a weak card that Israel is using against the Palestinian negotiator, the sons of our people are coming forward to show their willingness to suffer martyrdom and their desire for freedom and liberation."

The speech added that the martyrs were the candles and beacons of the nation, the symbol of its existence and honor. They depart from us, but they remain in our memory and consciousness.

The speech added that the prisoners had turned to a hunger strike because they had no other means by which to express their rejection of what politics are doing. These prisoners, who include the sick, the handicapped, and the aged, reject the logic of retreat. They can still unsheathe their will despite all the darkness and despite the fall of martyrs. Indeed it is one of two good things: victory or martyrdom.

The speech of the Islamic Society ended with a promise and oath to be faithful to the blood of the martyrs — the martyrs of al-Najah University, the martyrs of Palestine, and the martyrs of great Islam.

Inmate Dies in Prison; 'Arafat Suspends Officers

TA3008072395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An inmate who was caught by Palestinian Authority security personnel and held in Gaza prison has died in custody. 'Arafat was outraged when he heard about it, expressed his sorrow, and ordered the establishment of a commission of inquiry to look into the circumstances of the man's death. This was announced by his spokesman, Marwan Kanafani.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that several Palestinian security officers involved in the affair have been suspended from their jobs on 'Arafat's orders.

Ashqelon Prison Prevents Group From Visiting

JN3008080795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has called on Israel to release all male and female Palestinian prisoners before the Palestinian legislative elections. The president added that the Palestinians are committed to the peace process and look for a secure and stable future for all peoples in the region.

In another development, the administrations of the Israeli prisons and detention camps have escalated their oppressive measures against Palestinian prisoners and detainees. The Ashqelon prison administration prevented the Nazareth Friends of Prisoners Society from visiting 12 prisoners who have been kept in solitary confinement for over three months. No reason was given for the visit denial. Ahmad Habiballah, head of the society, said the prison administration denied the presence of eight of the 12 in prison.

In a related development, prisoners at al-Junayd central prison in Nabulus, said the prison administration has recently closed two prison sections and moved their occupants to another section which lacks basic living conditions.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Israel's Bar'am, 'Arafat Discuss Tourism Projects

TA2908163195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [Israeli] Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am travelled to Gaza today to meet with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and his counterpart in the Palestinian Authority [PA] Ilyas Frayj. They discussed joint tourism projects, including a Palestinian-Israeli hotel on the northern shores of the Dead Sea. Shortly after the meeting, Amy Rhodes asked Bar'am if today's arrest of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists was addressed.

[Begin Bar'am recording] I was doing all the effort needed to avoid speaking about other issues of politics. I concentrated especially on the subject of tourism, about forming a master plan coordination committee between Israel and the PA for developing the northern shore of the Dead Sea in order to build a Palestinian-Israeli hotel. I heard something about the closure of the institutions in Jerusalem, but the main subject was tourism. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Palestinians Turn Down Israeli Electricity Offer

TA3008050195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Elat negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians on electricity were stopped without any progress reported.

Israel's Energy Minister Gonen Segev says the Palestinians turned down a compromise offer which would have given them control of the electricity supply in the Arab areas of the West Bank, along with joint responsibility with Israel on maintenance. But Minister Segev says the Palestinians are demanding ownership and full control over all electricity lines and facilities in the self-rule areas.

Algeria

Opposition Not To Participate in Elections

LD2908135595 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria the opposition has confirmed it will not take part in the presidential elections. The first round is sheduled to take place on 16 November.

The signatories of the Rome platform — that is, eight parties including the Islamic Salvation Front, the Socialist Forces Front, and the National Liberation Front [FLN], the former single party — yesterday announced that they will ask people to boycott the presidential elections. These political parties believe that the present regime will use these elections as a plebiscite for themselves.

FLN Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri spoke to Marion Urban:

[Begin Mehri recording] I think that the organization of another electoral process in a unilateral fashion — even more questionable and in even more tragic circumstances — is not a way out of the crisis. This is the main reason why the FLN, together with the other parties, opposes these presidential elections, which have been decided in a unilateral fashion.

So far all the candidates have welcomed from the start the policy implemented by the authorities in January 1992. We oppose this policy and we call for another policy for a peaceful solution [words indistinct]. We do not support any candidate. [end recording]

Al-Nahdah Movement Rejects Election Schedule

MM2908155195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Aug 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Algerian al-Nahdah Rejects Elections, Says Conditions Not Favorable"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London, AL-HAYAH — The Islamic al-Nahdah Movement under the leadership of Abdallah Djaballah announced yesterday its rejection of the presidential elections scheduled to be held in November. This is the movement's first reaction since the date of the elections was officially announced.

A statement issued by the movement's Shura Council, which ended a two-day extraordinary session yesterday, said that the "security, political, informational, technical, and social conditions needed to hold free and lawful elections have not been secured. Therefore the following has been decided:

"1 — To stress the movement's conviction that the Algerian crisis is a complex political crisis requiring a peaceful and just comprehensive solution.
"2 — To reaffirm its adherence to the national Executive Committee's position as stated in its letter to the presidency...and call for the elections to be postponed and for work to secure the necessary conditions.
"3 — To express its conviction that it is futile to hold the elections as scheduled and in such difficult circumstances.

"In conclusion, the national Shura Council warns of the danger in continuing to impose a solution on the people and the opposition because this conflicts with the principle of shared responsibility between the government and the parties for organizing the elections and because of the extremely dangerous effect this would have on the principle of the people's sovereignty and the relationship between the government and the opposition.

"It reiterates once more the movement's willingness to participate in the search for true solutions to the crisis which would secure the conditions required to achieve national reconciliation and to ensure free, fair, and pluralist elections."

Regime Seen Split on Dialogue Effort

MM2908125895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 Aug 95 p 6

[Telephone interview with Shaykh Hocine Solimani, mediator between the government and the detained FIS leaders, in Algiers, by Kamil al-Tawil in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Tawil] What truth is there in the reports of new contacts between the regime and the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]?

[Solimani] Actually there are no contacts at present. But new contacts will begin soon, God willing.

[Al-Tawil] Is it possible to specify a date for the resumption of the contacts...? In a week or two, for example?

[Solimani] The light will emerge within a week, God willing. It depends on the contacts being made by the mediation committee. I believe that something will take place, probably on Monday.

[Al-Tawil] Who are the members of that committee?

[Solimani] It is not possible to announce the names of the members now.

[Al-Tawil] Are you optimistic this time?

[Solimani] I am always optimistic. And a solution will be secured this summer, God willing.

[Al-Tawil] In the past you have taken part in the contacts between the regime and the FIS....

[Solimani] Yes, I have participated in these contacts for more than two years.

[Al-Tawil] Can we hold one party responsible for obstructing the dialogue?

[Solimani] The contacts are being obstructed by the government, but not, of course, the entire government. There is a team seeking a solution through dialogue and another rejecting such a method and obstructing the contacts.

[Al-Tawil] Which team does President Zeroual support?

[Solimani] He supports those advocating a solution through dialogue. He is seeking to secure a solution.

[Al-Tawil] Can you specify the points on which the two parties disagree?

[Solimani] All the points submitted by the two parties are reasonable. It was the party abroad that obstructed the contacts and caused them to be cut off. The government had expected rigid terms from the FIS leaders (during recent contacts). But it was surprised by the reasonable demands submitted by the FIS.

[Al-Tawil] What about the issue of changing the FIS' name?

[Solimani] That is not possible.

[Al-Tawil] Why?

[Solimani] Because (FIS leaders) are suffering injustice, and they say that the government is decaying and that they cannot submit to oppression. It is not a matter of a name. It is a matter of credibility, of the group's (FIS leaders') release from prison and freedom to make contact with the people, and in addition of the closure of detention centers. These are the gestures that would reflect the government's intention and show whether or not it wants a solution. But it has made no step in this connection.

[Al-Tawil] One of the FIS leaders, namely Shaykh Abdelkader Omar, was quoted a few days ago as saying that Shaykh Abassi Madani is being held in the desert. Is there any information about where FIS leaders are being held?

[Solimani] I think the one intended is Shaykh Ali Belhadj, who was held in the desert before the resumption of the contacts. But the authorities have now returned them (Shaykhs Madani and Belhadj) to the capital.

[Al-Tawil] Are they being held in one place?

[Solimani] They are being held in the same place as they were held in the past (Djenan El Mufti).

[Al-Tawil] What truth is there in the reports saying that the armed groups have unified under Madani Mezrak, "national amir" of the Islamic Salvation Army?

[Solimani] That is true, and it happened some time ago. They (the unified groups) issued a statement, a copy of which is in the government's possession. A ceremony marking the resistance's unification took place in the capital. We do not doubt the truth of that unity at all.

[Al-Tawil] But some statements have been issued by the Armed Islamic Group contradicting what you are saying. Some of these statements threaten you personally.

[Solimani] The intelligence service is behind those statements.

[Al-Tawil] What about the statement threatening FIS leaders, including you?

[Solimani] That is the biggest proof that the statements are issued not by the Group but, rather, by the intelligence service.

[Al-Tawil] Is it possible to tell us who from the Group joined the Salvation Army?

[Solimani] The unity proceedings are recorded, together with the names of the leaders and their speeches.

[Al-Tawil] Do you believe that the armed groups would listen to Shaykhs Madani and Belhadj if, for example, they appeal for a truce or a halt to the violence?

[Solimani] The armed groups would halt the fighting once a request to that effect was issued by the FIS leaders. The resistance leadership is unified. There is liaison, and there is also obedience. That is why we have no doubt that the groups will adhere to what the FIS leaders say. The authorities know this for a fact. The party within the authorities that is seeking a solution has tried to deal positively with this reality, but the hard-line wing working behind the scenes obstructed a solution.

New Telecommunications Minister Appointed

LD2908174495 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A new minister for posts and telecommunications has been appointed: He is Mr. Mohamed Salah Youyou. Mr. Youyou replaces Mr. Tahar Allan who has been called for other duties. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Minister: No Reply From Iraq on Asylum Offer

MM3008122895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Aug 95 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Egyptian Foreign Ministry: Cairo Has Not Received Saddam's Reply to Asylum Offer"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Badr-al-Din Hammam has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Egypt has so far not received any reply from Iraq to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's statement regarding Cairo's willingness to receive Iraqi President Saddam Husayn as a political refugee.

Hammam denied the existence of any Egyptian-Jordanian disagreements over this issue. However, he said: Every party has its own views, even within the one family. And even one person can have more than one view of one particular issue." [quotemarks as published]

He pointed out that President Mubarak's recent statements on Iraq are very clear and leave no room for interpretations. They are: We cannot abandon Iraq's regional peace and independence [as published], Egypt supports the Iraqi people's interests and is against whatever harms it, and the Iraqi Government must responsibly implement all the UN resolutions." [quotemarks as published]

The Egyptian deputy foreign minister reiterated Egypt's refusal to topple any regime in any Arab country, as this is a political principle from which it will not depart. This is in addition to its disapproval of interference in the internal affairs of others. [passage omitted]

'Inevitability of Change' in Iraq Discussed

NC2808151095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1140 GMT 28 Aug 95

[Commentary by Mahmud Marzuq: "Iraq, the Inevitability of Change and Confrontation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The suffering of the Iraqi people is no longer a purely Iraqi concern. The fraternal people have been experiencing injustice and oppression which denied them the most basic right every state should guarantee to its citizens—a dignified, secure, and stable life. This suffering has become an Arab concern. All of us share this tragedy with the Iraqi people and look forward to the day when they can lead a normal existence after removing the nightmare that dominates even their private lives, and denies them the right to express themselves.

The Iraqi people have been experiencing economic and social hardships as a result of the international embargo, imposed because the Iraqi regime is persisting in its practices. It is dealing with the world in a way that can only be explained as lacking a sense of responsibility toward the oppressed Iraqi people, who are paying the price. This underscores the inevitability of change, which is now an Arab and international conviction, to save the Iraqi people from their agony and provide them with means for a dignified life.

A regime no longer trusted by the closest of its allies, ones who once offered themselves as the true defenders of the regime, is not qualified to remain in power. The defection of General Husayn Kamil and the two daughters of Saddam Husayn provides evidence that the regime is shaking from inside, unable to continue or behave wisely. After receiving painful blows from inside the country and from abroad, the leadership of this regime does not seem to be able to make the necessary distinctions that allow it to manage the government.

The defection of a person as important and influential as Gen. Husayn Kamil — he is tyrant Saddam's son-in-law and closest aid — is a painful blow to the tyrant, who is now staggering, unable to continue, yet lacking the courage to face the fate he deserves for the brutal crimes he committed against Arab and Islamic values and against the rights of the Arab and Muslim peoples, especially the fraternal Iraqi people.

The crack caused by the defection of Gen. Husayn Kamil and his companions in the ruling regime in Iraq and in the relations between the symbols of this regime themselves cannot be fixed before the regime collapses and the tyrant is removed. Anyway, we do not believe that the tragedy of the Iraqi people is now over. But we emphasize that the curtain has now been opened to what can be viewed as the last act, after which we hope the Iraqi people will restore their dignity and freedom. The world has had enough tremors from a man who proved that his presence in power is a constant threat to the region's peace, prosperity, and development.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives, Meets Mubarak

NC3008100295 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0937 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who arrived in Cairo at noon today on a visit to Egypt as part of an Arab tour.

The Kuwaiti minister is accompanied by a delegation consisting of Kuwaiti Ambassador in Cairo Faysal al-Khalid; 'Abdallah Bisharah, adviser to the foreign minister; and Ahmad al-Fahd, director of the Foreign Minister's Office.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad's visit to Egypt is part of a tour that has already taken him to Saudi Arabia. He will also visit Syria after his trip to Egypt. The tour is aimed at coordinating Kuwait and the three countries' positions and exchanging views about the latest developments in the Arab arena.

Musa Meets Bosnian President, Voices Support

NC2908145395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1350 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Paris, 29 Aug (MENA)—Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic met here today with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. The meeting was attended by 'Ali Mahir al-Sayyid, Egyptian ambassador to France, and Bosnian Foreign Minister Muhamed Secirbegovic.

Speaking after the meeting, Musa stated that he and President Izetbegovic had discussed the situation in Bosnia, yesterday's crime against Sarajevo, the need for a swift reply to this crime and a halt to aggression, and the need to give the peace process and the existing initiatives a chance to succeed. He added: I conveyed to the Bosnian president the condolences of President Mubarak and the Egyptian Government and people over what happened in Sarajevo yesterday. I also voiced Egypt's constant support for Bosnia and its right to life, territorial integrity, independence, and secure borders and stressed the need to make the peace process successful or give the Bosnian people their full right to legitimate self-defense.

Musa reiterated the full backing of Egypt and the Islamic Contact Group for Bosnia in the proposed peace initiatives and stressed the need for a swift answer to the Serbian aggression against Sarajevo. He pointed out that we must give the peace process a chance in the next few weeks while backing the Bosnian people and government and granting them their right to self-defense, so that justice may prevail. He underlined his rejection of the continued Serbian aggression and violations of the Bosnian people's and government's rights to independence and territorial integrity. He added that any resolution preventing the Bosnian people from exercising their right to self-defense and self-determination is against the UN Charter. He noted that all parties must honor this Charter with respect to the Bosnian people and their right to safeguard their territories and state.

Musa pointed out that senior officials from the Islamic and International Contact Groups will hold a joint meeting in Geneva tomorrow to discuss the situation in Bosnia. A joint ministerial meeting between the two groups is expected to be held, he added.

For his part, Bosnian Foreign Minister Muhamed Secirbegovic thanked Egypt for its support of the Bosnian people and for Musa's visit to express condolences over the civilian victims killed by the Serbian shelling of Sarajevo market yesterday, which killed 37 and wounded 85 others. He added: We are in full agreement regarding the U.S. initiative and the measures that must be adopted to compel the Serbs to accept peace. He noted that his country will continue the dialogue for peace despite calls demanding that Bosnia suspend this dialogue. He pointed out that the Bosnian Government is waiting for the UN's reply on reconsidering the cooperation [with the UN] to serve the interests of the Bosnian people and the peace process. He stressed that the peace talks cannot be credible if this crime goes unpunished. He noted that he had discussed with Minister Musa preparations for the coming meeting of the Islamic foreign ministers in Kuala Lumpur and the need to secure the greatest participation possible at that conference.

Musa Comments on Talks With French Minister

NC2908135095 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1320 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Paris, 29 Aug (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that his talks today with French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette dealt mainly with the situation in Bosnia, the Middle East in general, the Barcelona European-Mediterranean conference, and the problem of Iraq.

Speaking after the talks, Musa described the situation in Bosnia as very bad, particularly after yesterday's criminal attack on Sarajevo. He added that he will meet later with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic to convey the condolences of the Egyptian president, government, and people. He noted that if the U.S. initiative to reach a peaceful solution in Bosnia succeeds and if it is accepted by the parties concerned, it will be a good step forward. But if it does not succeed, other things must be done to defend the Bosnian people's right to live, he added.

Musa emphasized that Egypt's stand regarding Bosnia is firm and clear. He added: We encourage a political solution and hope the U.S. initiative is successful. If Bosnia does not accept this initiative within one or two weeks, our position is known: namely, to consider the Security Council resolution imposing an arms embargo as nonexistent. [passage omitted]

Japanese Envoy Discusses Future Trade Exchange

NC2908131795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1105 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Japan's Ambassador to Egypt Kunio Katakura [name as received] has stated that the talks between President Husni Mubarak and Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, who will arrive in Cairo on 14 September, will concentrate on Japan's participation in the development process in Egypt in particular and the Middle East in general.

He said in statements to MENA that his country shows special attention to cooperation with Egypt in economic development based on market mechanisms and strengthening the free trade system among the numerous parties under the umbrella of the modern international trade system so as to activate the world's economic growth and prosperity. [passage omitted]

The ambassador discussed the amount of bilateral trade exchange, which in 1994 reached around 787 million yen [Y]. Of this amount, Y708 million was for Japanese exports and 79 million for Egyptian imports. In 1993 trade exchange was 843 million, of which Y742 million was for Japanese exports and 101 for Egyptian imports.

He said the Japanese export figure dropped because of the yen's performance, not because of a decrease in bilateral cooperation. He added that in 1994 Egypt received loans in the form of commodities amounting to Y110.4 million from the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund. It also received loans for projects from the same fund amounting to Y248.6 million, which contributed toward transforming electricity station projects in Upper Egypt, Sinai, and Marsa Matruh. [passage omitted]

Reactions to UN Women's Conference in Beijing

Lawyer Sues To Block Participation

NC2908212695 Paris AFP in English
2048 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, Aug 30 (AFP) — An Egyptian lawyer has filed suit against President Husni Mubarak to block his country's participation in the UN conference on women in Beijing.

"This conference calls for free sex and is against religious values and traditions," 'Abd-al-Halim Mandur wrote in his suit to a Cairo administrative court. "Moreover, the women who travelled to it travelled without a Mahram", a brother, husband or father required as a male companion by Islamic law, Mandur said. He filed his suit against Mubarak, as well as the prime minister, the heads of the two houses of parliament and several ministers. The court will begin hearing the case in a few days, the legal sources said.

Last week, the Imam of Al-Azhar, Sunni Islam's highest institution, slammed the conference as anti-religious. The conference aims "to wipe out the differences between the sexes and leave only one sex," Shaykh Jad-al-Haq 'Ali Jad-al-Haq said.

Criticism of Al-Azhar Statement

NC2908183095 Cairo ROSE AL-YUSUF in Arabic
28 Aug 95 pp 4-7

[Article by Chief Editor Mahmud al-Tuhami: "Al-Azhar Shaykh and the Freedom of Women"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] We in Egypt certainly do not approve of anything that goes against our creed or contradicts customs and traditions. By we, I refer to the firm stand I have always observed by various groups of people, regardless of their jobs, social rank, positions, or responsibilities. Both the ruler and the ruled in Egypt care about religion, religious beliefs, customs, and traditions that reflect the noble nature of this people, their self-respect, and their respect for their life and the life of others.

In this regard, I am totally in agreement with al-Azhar Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haq's statement on the World's Conference on Women in Beijing. Like any Egyptian, I absolutely agree with the al-Azhar imam and ulema in their endeavor to preserve religious values and abide by the teachings of the shari'ah [Islamic law]. For nobody could object to or question the importance or merit of these noble values and goals for Egyptians. I am also fully aware that the Coptic Church's stand as far as values and ethics are concerned are no different from that of al-Azhar imam and ulema.

What really baffles me is the fact that the al-Azhar imam and body of ulema have gone beyond what could be described as advice purely given for the sake of God and the homeland and jumped to conclusions that are totally remote from the topics on which a considerable agreement is expected to be reached. This confirms what I have previously observed; namely, that some religious ulema are deeply engrossed in their own affairs and are totally removed from life. Communication with external society requires a special expertise that may not necessarily be available, as we have seen, to al-Azhar shaykh and his group. This is absolutely not intended to diminish the standing of our honorable ulema.

It would have been more worthwhile for the imam and his group to send their recommendations and their sound, sane opinions to the official and nongovernmental delegates travelling to Beijing for them to acquaint themselves with these recommendations. But to hasten to release an extremely fiery statement implying that rights may be abandoned is something that is extremely surprising for us.

The statement has created a great deal of confusion to the extent that a partisan newspaper published on its front page a headline saying that the al-Azhar shaykh is calling for a boycott of the conference, something that is not directly inferred from the statement, although it came very close to saying it. [passage omitted]

The logic of withdrawal and boycott harms the state's supreme interests and leads it to isolation, while active participation will defend the Egyptian understanding of religion. As the events of the UN Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo last year have proved, the Egyptian delegation fought hard to uphold and safeguard religious principles. Egypt did not commit itself to anything that ran counter to or incited violation of our creeds.

The fatal mistakes in both the style and the argument of the al-Azhar imam's statement reflect a tendency to follow a certain political logic and not an objective and scholarly religious vision. [passage omitted]

Chief Editor Reviews Regional Developments

NC2908163895

[FBIS Editorial Report] The 24 August edition of AL-JUMHURIYAH publishes a 3,000-word article by Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari on pages 1 and 3, in which he talks about "the very unique trio" that encompasses Clinton, Husayn of Jordan, and Saddam Husayn.

Al-Ansari "sympathizes" with "the great President" Bill Clinton and understands his "concern since the big getaway of young General Husayn Kamil al-Majid." He "appreciates his concerns for our region, even though he declared a state of emergency and ordered land, sea, and air troops to move and surround the source of danger and the den of the bad guys in Baghdad."

Al-Ansari admires King Husayn for "the way he plays his cards." "He encourages the conspiracy and fosters its heroes and elements; he is Iraq's loyal friend, who preserves its pan-Arab ties; he is the lung through which the fraternal country breathes in its ordeal; he is the daring one, who rejects the American demands and refuses to sever economic ties with Iraq; and he is Husayn, host to the CIA wasps who interrogate and plan with the defecting general how to overthrow the regime in Baghdad," he says; adding that after being "a leading hero" in two wars in the Gulf, King Husayn now takes part in preparing the theater for the "third Gulf war."

When it comes to Saddam Husayn, al-Ansari stands "puzzled and unable to understand." He is not sure whether the man is "stupid, ignorant, or just inattentive."

Noting that the Iraqi president "distributed authority" among members of his family and clan, he wonders how he thinks that "a great nation like Mesopotamia....can be ruled by a bunch of spies, slaughterers, and thieves."

Al-Ansari woes the ignorance of "the failing dreaded one," because "the lair you built to make the center of the ruling process...is nothing more than a family or clan council or a complex of interests that are naturally conflicting and contradictory."

He asks Saddam how he can build a modern state when he is "up to his ears in obsolete concepts" and how he can guarantee people's loyalty when "the highest military ranks are granted everyday to people with no knowledge and persons who are not qualified to join the army." He remarks that it is "very dangerous to entrust scientific affairs, accomplishments, instruments, and centers to ignorant people, even if their loyalty and sincerity are ascertained."

Al-Ansari harbors "little sorrow and a lot of disdain" for Saddam Husayn, who "competes with his defecting general to disclose the homeland's secrets to international envoy Ekeus." He likens him to a "stripper in a cheap night club."

"After all this, we are asked to take a stand, to take one side or sympathize with, support, and bless the other," the writer says; adding: "Can we simply say that we are with President Clinton as he prepares the theater for a third war in the Gulf? A new electronic war that destroys whatever remained intact in Iraq after the last war," he asks.

"Is it possible to declare, out of our pan-Arab, national, and humanitarian commitment, that we reject these American schemes against sister Iraq and its steadfast people," al-Ansari asks, adding that this would "directly or indirectly contribute to the survival of this sinful lair in Baghdad."

The writer points out that Washington "insists" that there are Iraqi movements, although Kuwait and Jordan have denied that.

He remarks that "treasuries are empty, the public budgets of the richest and most wealthy states are disturbed, and the kingdoms of wealth had to borrow, leaving nothing for the lean years to come. But Washington knows better; it knows what is good for them. It is imperative to escalate and beat the drums of war," although, according to him, the solution can be as simple as giving the defectors asylum in Washington "without having to send warships, giant aircraft carriers, the marines, or the special forces."

He concludes that the arrangements are different and that "the goals are predetermined." "It is obvious that the goal is to create a tense climate, that some people want to show their muscles, that some want to make an accomplishment and accrue assets to wage domestic battles, and that some are paving the region's land for the new thing that is coming," he states.

Al-Ansari maintains that King Husayn "recruited Gen. Husayn Kamil and brought him to Amman to begin with him and through him a new chapter in the Middle East."

The United States, "the power with a thousand arms," is the "caring mother." It is entitled to raise or put down whoever it wants, since "all the sons are running in its orbit," al-Ansari says.

He adds that "the accomplishment" with which Clinton, "the daring boy," will run in the coming presidential election is "preparing the regional power that runs parallel to and counterbalances the evil ones in Tehran, through substituting Saddam's regime, which gave all it could, with a young, strong regime that actively and ardently provides whatever is required by the new stage, a stage in which Iran will be the goal."

He adds that the accomplishment involves "preparing the Middle East for the coming project, by penetrating to the depth and getting to the core from the east of Suez, starting with Israel, Jordan, and new Iraq—after the collapsed regime—up to Turkey and the Gulf, this important and influential strategic region in the future map of the universe, the region that dominates and controls seas, gulfs, and straits...And then to the heart of the Gulf, which embraces the sources and revenues of energy." According to al-Ansari, the map then extends to the Islamic republics in Asia.

"This is the new scheme to control and dominate the entire region, and the regions beyond it. A definite accomplishment should be made in this scheme before the rise of the new superpowers," al-Ansari says. He, therefore, thinks that the "big getaway" the young general started "was not an individual adventure" or a coup within the palace or the ruling family. "The matter is far more serious," al-Ansari says, pointing out that Gen. Husayn Kamil "was just a nail in the coffin of the regime that created him, or just a cause that triggers or speeds up the big change and its game in our Arab world and in the heart of a bigger region; namely, the Middle East at large."

Defendants Reveal Possible 'Terrorist' Plans

NC2908171295 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1510 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—The Higher State Security Prosecution is currently questioning 18 defendants from terrorist elements in Asyut and al-Mansurah who had planned to assassinate a number of political figures and strike at tourist and key installations, as part of their scheme to harm national security, peace, and the economy.

In the interrogation, the terrorists confessed that they had been planning to overthrow the regime and establish a so-called Islamic caliphate. The prosecution has ordered the arrest of nine fugitive terrorists. The defendants now being questioned by the prosecution are: 'Uthman 'Awad Hijazi, Taha Mahmud Karim, 'Awad Kamil Ghattas, Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Mu'ti Ibrahim, Hamid Isma'il 'Ulaywah, Nasr-al-Din Mahmud Karim, Ibrahim 'Abdallah Hasan, Muhammad 'Abdallah Ahmad, Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Azim 'Ali Husayn, Kamal Kamil Sulayman, Naji 'Abd-al-Shafi 'Abd-al-'Alim, Sulayman Kamil 'Abdallah, al-Sadat Kamil 'Abdallah, Muhammad Ibrahim 'Afifi, Ra'fat 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Malik, Sabir 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Malik, 'Isam Mahmud al-'Awadi, and Samih Mahmud al-'Awadi. The fugitive terrorists are: Rif'at Muhammad Hallul, Mahmud Muhammad 'Ali, Mustafa Muhammad Fathi Hamzah, 'Ali Isma'il 'Ulaywah, Sami al-Nabawi, Baha'-al-Din 'Abd-al-Mun'im al-Batal, Rif'at Zaydan 'Abdallah, Nash'at Muhammad Salamah, and Jamal Sulayman 'Urabi.

Defendant 'Uthman 'Awad Hijazi, a 30-year old with a bachelor's degree in the arts from al-Mansurah University, has confessed that he has been a member of and a believer in the ideology of the Islamic groups since 1990, and that he assumed supervision of the group in al-Daqahliyah following the arrest of a number of its leaders. He noted that he had arranged a number of meetings for his group at the poultry farm his father owns in al-Sinbillawayn. The defendant affirmed that he had sought to contact leaders of the Islamic groups in Cairo and Upper Egypt and that he gave defendant Taha Mahmud karim 14,000 pounds and assigned him to buy weapons to use in terrorist operations. He confessed that he had tasked some group members to monitor important installations in al-Daqahliyah to use as possible targets. He explained that the group's goal had been to overthrow the regime and establish a so-called Islamic caliphate. He affirmed that he had passed a fatwa [Islamic legal ruling] permitting the theft of Christians' money to spend on the group's activity, noting that necessity permits this because they consider themselves in a state of jihad. He also confessed that, through one of the lawyers defending members of the Islamic groups, he had submitted grievances on behalf of detainees in accordance with the Emergency Law and obtained permits for their families to visit. He added that he had asked a group member to draw a sketch of the entrances and exits of al-Mansurah City, the al-Daqahliyah Governorate building, the Security Directorate building, and the State Security Intelligence Department in the governorate as targets.

Defendant 'Uthman 'Awad admitted that he had received from terrorist Taha Mahmud Karim four firearms, a pistol, bullets, and half a kilo of dynamite which he hid in four different tombs in al-Sinbillawayn. He mentioned that the money with which the weapons were bought had come from his father's farm.

Defendant Taha Mahmud Karim, a 25-year old student at the College of Commerce in al-Azhar University, admitted that he had joined the Islamic Group in 1990 in the City of Dayrut, where he lives, and that he had ties with prominent leaders of the group. He said that the most prominent of these leaders are Farghali Haridi, Khalid Farid, and Tariq Quraysh. He noted that he had given religious lessons to members of the group in some mosques. He added that he had maintained ties with many of the terrorists killed in clashes with the police, including 'Isam Karam, Mustafa Ramzi, and Muhammad Niyazi and that in some instances he had hidden them in an apartment he has in Asyut.

Terrorist Taha Karim confessed that he got acquainted with defendant 'Uthman Hijazi. They agreed to coordinate between Islamic groups in Lower and Upper Egypt to splinter the security services' efforts. Taha Karim agreed to act as the liaison man in Upper Egypt.

Taha Karim said that he tried to contact defendant Najih Ibrahim Zaydan, who is serving a 15 years prison sentence in the 1981 al-Jihad Organization case, through Najih's wife who is a friend of Taha's sister. He wanted to obtain from Najih the names of al-Jihad elements abroad in order to contact them. However, Najih's wife said this was difficult because visits take place under the watchful eyes of the security services.

Terrorist Taha Karim said arms dealer Muhammad 'Abdallah told him that terrorist Rif'at Zaydan wanted to get acquainted with him. He said he met with Rif'at Zaydan who revealed that he planned to kill an undercover security agent in Dayrut to ease the pressure on the al-Jama'ah members in Mallawi. Taha Karim said he received from 'Uthman Hijazi 2,000 pounds and one piece of firearms which he then gave to Rif'at Zaydan. Taha Karim said he had agreed to meet with Rif'at Zaydan in front of a house in Asyut. Taha was a bit late for the meeting. When some inhabitants asked Rif'at what he was doing, he answered that he wanted to buy the house and that he came from Abnub village. The inhabitants became suspicious that he was seeking a personal vendetta. Rif'at then admitted to the inhabitants that he was Rif'at Zaydan, who is on the run from the security services. Rif'at Zaydan met with Taha and then left the place. However, one of the citizens had already tipped the police, who arrested Taha but could not arrest Rif'at, who had already fled.

The prosecutor has ordered that the defendants be held in custody for 15 days pending investigation. The defendants face a number of charges, including joining a group formed contrary to the provisions of the law and constitution, attempting to change the regime and the constitution by force, and possessing firearms and explosives without a license with the aim of using them to undermine security and destabilize the regime. The defendants also face charges of premeditated murder and falsification of official documents.

Writer Critical of Government Human Rights Record

NC2908203695 Cairo AKHBAR AL-YAWM in Arabic 26 Aug 95 p 24

[Column by Mustafa Amin: "Idea"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Every day a new blow is dealt to democracy in our country. It appears that democracy has become our archenemy. We must punish it, discipline it, and cut its wings. It appears that we want to conquer every bastion of democracy and transform it into a prison or a detention center.

We have struck at mayoral elections, replacing them by appointments. We have struck at university dean elections, replacing them by appointments. We have clashed with the Engineers Association, the Doctors Association, and the Lawyers Association. We have now declared war on the Muslim Brothers. Whenever we see an association opening its doors or an organization expressing an opinion, we hurry to muzzle it and restrict its movement.

Recently, we have remembered that there is an Egyptian Organization for Human Rights. How horrible! How come that in our country which enjoys total freedom, democracy, and human rights there is an organization that defends human rights! Defending human rights is the privilege of the government alone. Strangers are not entitled to meddle in matters that do not concern them or to open their mouths. No one has the right to speak about the oppressed for there is not a single oppressed person in our country. We are happy and content and we thank God for everything.

The government might be excused. After it issued the law assassinating the press, before that the emergency law, and before that other notorious laws, so it does not need human rights organizations. The government protects and sponsors human rights. There is no repression, terrorism, or violation of human rights in Egypt.

The government welcomes human rights organizations that fight terrorism in Iraq, Sudan, Africa, Asia, and Latin America. But it does not mind the terrorism practiced by friendly states. What happens there is an a joke that does not go beyond setting up gallows, flogging opponents, imprisoning trouble makers, and butchering dissidents. These are civilized acts within the framework of human rights. The abuse of power is the prerogative of rulers. There is no difference between the rights of rulers and the rights of citizens. The government is a human being exactly like the citizen. It does its best to please and comfort the citizens.

The government does not imprison journalists but puts them in five star hotels. It does not handcuff writers and intellectuals but puts a golden bracelet in their hands and a golden anklet on their feet. It does not beat journalists but gently pats their shoulders.

There is no need for human rights organizations in our country. The people demand that there be organizations that defend the rights of rulers!

Negative Impact of U.S. Aid on Agriculture Seen

95LD0097A Cairo AL-YASAR in Arabic Jun 95 pp 35-37

[Article by Aryan Nasif: "On Agricultural Policies Conference; U.S. Aid and Its Devastating Effects on Egyptian Agriculture"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At the U.S.-Egyptian conference that was held in Cairo during 26-28 March 1995 to evaluate Egyptian agricultural policies in recent years, Dr. Yusuf Wali lauded the distinguished role U.S. agricultural aid has played in developing agriculture and serving farmers. His excellency noted that the U.S. aid's beneficent role started with the inception of the 23 July through the Point Four Program, and is still producing ever-increasing fruits [sentence as translated].

It seems that Dr. Wali's academic interests have made him forget that U.S. aid to Egypt, especially agricultural aid, ended in the mid-1950's when the United States suspended the shipment of $60 million worth of wheat, which was not given as aid, to Egypt because Abd-al-Nasir had rejected some U.S. demands that would have diminished our national dignity and our independent decisionmaking—demands that called for curtailing our industrialization process and inspecting our armed forces.

The truth is that the U.S. aid phenomenon has emerged and grown only since the mid-1970's, which is in harmony with the government's political and economic tendency.

Is it true aid?

The so-called U.S. aid to poor countries is regulated by U.S. law No. 480 of 1954, which was passed to solve the problem of the accumulated food and grain stores, especially wheat stores.

This aid is divided into three types:

- Charitable aid provided during acute crises (earthquakes, floods, and so forth), either by government or civilian agencies, such as the Catholic Relief Organization;
- Unrepayable grants offered in special cases as a reward for a special stance taken by the receiving country in the interest of U.S. policies;
- Soft-term development loans (i.e., loans given at low interest rates and repayable over an extended period of time).

Even though charitable aid is paltry and even though grants and rewards interlock, U.S. aid can be defined practically as so-called development aid and privileged sale of surplus goods.

U.S. Aid to Egyptian Agriculture

Even though the figures, whether from Egyptian or U.S. sources, are scattered and disagree, the one figure on which there is agreement is the $19 billion in total U.S. aid in all fields, of which agriculture and food have gotten an $3 billion share in the past two decades (1975-95).

Dr. Wali's opinion, and the opinion of some political and agricultural leaders, agree with the U.S. opinion regarding the positive impact of this aid.

Dr. [Carol] Lancaster, the U.S. AID deputy director, believes that more than 1 million Egyptian farmers benefit from this aid that has improved their financial and educational standards.

Edward Walker, the U.S. ambassador to Egypt, believes that this aid has enhanced agricultural production tangibly and greatly and has increased farmers' income.

Dr. Yusuf Wali greatly appreciates this aid as a mainstay of increased crop production and enhanced research capability and, subsequently, as a contribution to an enhanced standard of living for farmers.

Dr. Sufi Abu-Talib, a former People's Assembly speaker, believes that this aid is beneficial and essential to Egypt currently because our economy has not matured yet. Even though this aid seeks to protect the donor country's interests in the region, this goal does not undermine our sovereignty and independence.

Another opinion is based on the real consequences of this aid to our agricultural policy, namely:

1. Reduced acreage cultivated with food and strategic crops: One condition attached to this aid is the so-called "policy of exporting so as to import." This means increased acreage cultivated with export crops at the expense of food and conventional crops.

Since this policy was adopted in the early 1980's, the crop structure needed for national food security has collapsed and the food gap has widened.

Since 1984-85, i.e., when Dr. Wali was most convinced of and most enthusiastic for this policy and when he stated that the production of 25,000 feddans cultivated with strawberries is sure to cover all our wheat imports—since that time, there has been:

- A big drop in acreage cultivated with wheat, maize, and fava beans.

%Imported wheat volume has grown to more than 6 million tons.

%We have managed to export just 7 tons of strawberries.

Its dangers to the independence of our decisionmaking aside, this policy could not succeed. Dr. Goldberg, a Harvard University professor, has said that this is a policy of cultivating luxury crops for the international supermarket. He stressed that while expelling the cultivation of the food crops needed for consumption, these luxury crops will not find markets in the United States and Europe, either because these markets are glutted with such crops or because the production does not meet the aesthetic criteria of the U.S. or European consumer. In countries where they are produced, people cannot afford to buy these crops because they are poor.

2. A big and constant rise in the cost of agricultural production requirements: The fact that this aid has been tied to meeting World Bank conditions, which demand that subsidies for these requirements be abolished and that requirements be left to the private sector to handle, has led to this fearful increase.

Before the World Bank, a U.S. presidential mission came to our country in 1982 on the personal instruction of President Reagan to study our agricultural problems and made the same recommendation.

3. Dissolution of the Central Cooperative Agricultural Federation and liquidation of the cooperatives' role: A report submitted by a 1976 U.S. mission to Egypt, which was supervised and financed by the U.S. AID program, included the conclusion that, as a result of its study, the mission had become certain that the country's agricultural cooperative system "was flawed!"

On the basis of this recommendation and of some superficial and flimsy pretexts, the Central Cooperative Federation was dissolved as a prelude to dissolving the cooperative movement in its entirety.

There is no doubt that Egypt's agricultural cooperative system at the time was flawed, if viewed from a U.S. perspective. It incorporated nearly 3 million farmers who had formed more than 4,000 cooperatives, which provided farmers with all their production requirements with a budget of about 5 million pounds.

4. Serious aid conditions that undermined agriculture and the national economy: Dr. Mustafa al-Jabali notes some of these conditions, including the condition that goods and machinery required for aid-financed projects be imported from the United States, regardless of how much their prices exceed prices of alternatives in other markets.

Moreover, these conditions prohibit exporting to the United States any Egyptian agricultural commodities that are available there, especially cotton. This has resulted in a much greater balance of trade deficit favoring the United States.

In his book, "Egyptian Economy: From Independence To Subservience," Adil Husayn makes the following comparison between Egyptian-U.S. agricultural agreements concluded in the 1960's and agreements concluded after 1970:

A. Post-1970 agreements make it conditional that Egypt repay development loans in dollars.

B. The U.S. Government has gained guardianship over proceeds of the Egyptian Government's sale of commodities financed by the agreements.

C. The Egyptian Government pledged that it would make certain that the United States would get a "fair" share of any increase in Egypt's commercial purchases of agricultural commodities. As a result of this pledge, the U.S. share of Egyptian wheat imports rose in seven years (1970-77) as follows: 3.8 percent-12.8 percent-41.5 percent-53 percent-56 percent.

The agreement concluded with U.S. AID in 1979 is an obvious example of despotic U.S. conditions. The agreement provides for AID control of the Egyptian Agricultural Development and Credit Bank's accounts (both head office and village branches) to ensure that the bank keeps its accounts the way the World Bank wants them kept. Moreover, the agreement stipulates that no money from the grant may be spent for the purchase or use of any agricultural pesticides.

The 1991 wheat deal with Egypt also imposed harsh conditions, adding compounded interest to installment payments and requiring that wheat and flour shipments be accepted as is and without any evaluation of degree of fitness for consumption.

The American friend also insisted that payment be made in cash and without any credit facilities for the big 1994 wheat shipment, which had an estimated value of $2.35 million [sic].

5. Prejudicing the Egyptian village's relative social stability through the promulgation of law No. 96 of 1992, which goes to extremes in amending agricultural tenancy relations. This law cannot be disconnected from the vision of the aid-donating countries—a vision stated explicitly in the December 1992 edition of "FINANCE AND DEVELOPMENT," a publication issued in Arabic by the World Bank and the IMF. Regarding tenancy relations, this edition asserted that the matter should be left to be determined by the markets, without the imposition of any state control on these relations.

These tenancy policy undermines, as Dr. Muhammad Abu-Mandur points out in his research on structural adaptation of Egypt's agriculture, the ownership structure and increases the base and percentage of rural poverty.

6. Endeavors to dissuade Egypt from narrowing the food gap: U.S. AID sees expansion of the wheat-cultivated acreage as an undermining of the economic reform policies and a deviation from the conclusions of joint studies. Hence, the amazing statement that the U.S. Embassy in Cairo issued with the onset of the national wheat campaign and that cast doubt on Egypt's ability to increase its grain production.

The World Bank's director of agricultural activities recommended on 21 October 1994—in accordance with the special tendency pertaining to joint projects between the Ministry of Agriculture and the International Fund for Agricultural Development [IFAD]—that sugarcane-cultivated acreage be reduced.

7. Denial of Egyptian financing resources to Egyptian agriculture: Adoption of the World Bank and U.S. AID policies has ended the Agricultural Credit Bank's role as a financier of the agricultural process and of farmers. These policies have also caused the bank's financial conditions to deteriorate, turning it into a bank indebted by a half billion pounds. Moreover, this bank borrowed in mid-1994 nearly $120 million more from the World Bank. U.S. AID was not content with all this. In April 1995, this agency financed a credit training course whose two main pivots were:

- Ending any role played by the Egyptian Agricultural Credit Bank in providing production requirements;
- The means to import goods, semiprocessed goods, and equipment from the United States.

8. Declining productivity of Egyptian crops and concerted promotion of U.S. crops: As a result of U.S. research on cotton strains, the (Albima?) strain of cotton seed was introduced two seasons ago. Its cultivation resulted either in extensive proliferation of cotton diseases or in extremely low production per feddan.

At a time when the national wheat campaign, led by Dr. Mahmud Sharif, tried to achieve satisfactory results, the U.S. Wheat Center in Cairo launched an open and concerted propaganda campaign about the good quality, i.e., fitness for human consumption, of U.S. wheat. Moreover, extensive credit facilities were provided to those who imported this wheat.

To crown the success of this scheme, the U.S. Embassy in Cairo issued a report noting the U.S. firms' great capabilities to export to the Egyptian market, mainly grains, wheat, and food products in particular.

In fact, the actual outcome in 1994 was as follows:

- Egyptian imports from the United States amounted to $2,000,800,000.

%Egyptian exports to the United States amounted to $593 million.

In that year, Egypt made no gain and was, moreover, punished for its wheat campaign by being denied any loan to finance its U.S. agricultural purchases.

9. The attempt to dominate Egyptian agricultural philosophy: The Ministry of Agriculture has refused to finance 350 studies submitted by serious Egyptian researchers in an effort to develop agriculture on scientific bases, contenting itself with financing about 25 percent of the actual costs of 123 studies only. At the same time, al-Minufiyah University Genetic Engineering Center, which is one of just three Egyptian centers specialized in this area, has turned into a mere decorative shell that has no functions after having cost the university 11

million pounds. Meanwhile, this ministry has thrown the door wide open to U.S. agencies, organizations, and missions to try to dominate the Egyptian agricultural intellect through numerous research centers and projects.

The International Training Center in Maryut is supervised by U.S. AID.

The Middle East University has been built over an area of 7,000 feddans in al-Nubariyah for researchers from all of the region's countries that participate in the so-called "new Middle East market," including Israel, of course, according to statements Dr. Wali made in March 1993.

The National Agricultural Research and Policy Project [NARPP] is a 10-year project that works scientifically through 16,000 local delegates, including 6,000 researchers. A large number of these people have been sent to the United States and Israel. Through this project, U.S. AID has gotten nearly 25,000 scientific studies covering all theoretical and practical aspects of the Egyptian agricultural issue.

If we add to this comprehensive scientific survey of Egypt's agricultural conditions the field survey that is conducted by U.S. experts—and only God knows the extent of their expertise—through their tours of the country under the cover of dozens of projects in lower and upper Egypt, then we would realize the threat that is posed by all U.S. AID activities in Egypt. Dr. Sa'd-al-Din Ibrahim sees, through a study published in AL-'ARABI in July 1994, that this agency has become a U.S. shadow cabinet in Egypt.

They are not content with this.

The U.S. ambassador in Cairo promises us that when NARPP is completed, another U.S. research project will be established under the name of ATOT [as transliterated]. This promise was made at the so-called "agricultural summit," which convened in Cairo during 8-12 January 1995.

On 28 October 1994, Dr. Wali announced to us the good news that a sum of $3 million was allocated as a U.S. grant to establish an agricultural markets information and news system that provides constant up-to-date, futuristic, accurate, and detailed information and statistics (all these words are contained in Dr. Wali's statement).

10. The endeavor to exploit aid for direct political pressure: I do not believe that it is necessary to dwell at length on this issue, not for fear of the new press law but for a simple reason, namely that the donors of this aid and their thinkers do not consider this a matter to be concealed. Rather, they talk about it openly and very frankly.

The U.S. mutual security law states explicitly that no economic or technical aid may be granted to any country unless it strengthens U.S. security.

Regarding what is raised about the possibility of cutting off aid to Egypt, John Westley?, the director of U.S. AID in Egypt, has stated recently in this connection that "it is evident such sums of money represent a political decision."

Jack Hoover, a major figure in the U.S. foreign agricultural and food policymaking, has emphasized, "We provide food to other countries not on the basis of the degree of need but on the basis of considerations dictated by the U.S. foreign policy."

Even though we realize that several million dollars—of which more than a half goes back to the United States through the fees paid to U.S. experts, contractors, and consulting firms—compel us to endure all this, an extremely important question must be asked, namely: Do we have to endure this?

The preliminary answer is no. Our resources, if exploited with our own will, are enough for us. However, this issue requires another article.

Egyptian-Sudanese Nile Dispute Discussed

95LD0099A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 7 Jul 95 pp 18-19, 76

[Article by Dr. Rushdi Sa'id: "Can Sudan Obstruct the Waters of the Nile?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] News has been flooding in, saying that the Sudanese Government is throwing up obstacles in the face of the work being accomplished by the Permanent Technical Authority that was formed in accordance with the agreement ratified in 1959 by the Egyptian and Sudanese Governments concerning total utilization of the waters of the Nile. In fact, this news says that the Sudanese Government may withdraw from this agreement. If this news is true, then Egypt will face the problem of having to find an alternative to this commission, which oversees the implementation of this agreement that has guaranteed both Egypt and Sudan their share of the Nile waters.

The Permanent Technical Authority consists of an equal number of technicians from both Egypt and Sudan. According to the text of the agreement, this commission has extensive powers. In addition to drawing up the main guidelines for plans that have the objective of regulating the flow of the Nile, engaging in research concerning these plans, and supervising the implementation of the plans when they have been established, the commission oversees the implementation of the 1959 agreement and monitors the discharge of the river waters in order to make sure that each party is receiving exactly the share of the Nile waters that it was entitled to according to the agreement. The commission also establishes procedures for the operation of existing dams or dams that will be erected on the Nile in the future, and it oversees the implementation of these procedures via the engineers who have been entrusted with this job by the officials of the two republics. The commission has broad authority to monitor the water levels of the Nile as well as the discharge of its waters in all of the dams in the upper reaches of the river in order that it have all the data necessary for it to redistribute the shares of the two parties, if this is needed due to successive years of drought that have caused a lack of river flow from the High Dam or in case part of the river flow has been blocked and set aside for usage by any of the nations outside the borders of the two republics—and this is a right that the two governments have admitted they may need to exercise in the future.

The Permanent Technical Authority was formed on the basis of a joint decision by the Egyptian and Sudanese Governments, and the budget that it requires is paid for by funds from both countries. The commission has regularly met in Cairo and Khartoum during the last 30 years and has managed to avoid the storms of politics. The Egyptian and Sudanese Governments have long felt that it is wise to isolate the commission from the effects of the directives issued concerning relations between the two governments and to profit from the process of dividing the Nile waters between themselves, without any disputes. Not only has the commission done an excellent job of overseeing the implementation of the agreement without encroaching upon anyone's rights, it has also done an excellent job in the study and implementation of projects of mutual benefit such as the Jonglie Canal project in southern Sudan. This project was supposed to increase the river flow for both countries when completed. However, the project was brought to a halt by the civil war in southern Sudan, which has been going on for more than two decades.

The new Sudanese Government, which was formed when the military took over in 1989, has continued this same policy for a number of years. Starting in 1989, it began to set obstacles in the path of the commission in order to put pressure on Egypt. This was done in order to deflect the world's attention from its increasingly serious internal problems and to blame them on Egypt, the former "colonizer, which has the objective of imposing its authority on Sudan." For this reason, slogans have arisen concerning Sudan's regaining its "stolen" territory in the Halayib area and concerning Sudan's reclaiming its right to utilize the waters of the Nile that the Egyptians have wrongfully "usurped." The 1959 agreement gave Sudan 75 percent of all of the water stored by the High Dam. But, in the present Sudanese Government, there are those who believe that Sudan has not benefited at all from the construction of the High Dam and that Sudan is capable of taking the amounts of water allotted to it—or more—without the help of the High Dam and without having to adhere to the text of the 1959 agreement. Such logic is astonishing, because it is an open appeal to fan the flames of hostility or even war between the two nations that are bound together by the Nile; and, as far as Egypt is concerned, the Nile is its only water artery, and it must regulate and ration the river flow that it receives.

Egyptian-Sudanese Relations

Ever since Sudan, in the twenties of this century, started expanding its utilization of the Nile waters, Egypt has made every effort to have the flow of the Nile regulated and to meet with Sudan in order to control the river in a way that would bring the most benefit to both countries. This was also true in 1959 when, after lengthy negotiations and extensive scientific and engineering work, the two nations agreed that guaranteeing the flow of water to the two countries in amounts that met their needs was something that would hinge on the construction of a series of dams along the river, which would increase the storage capacity and guarantee the flow of water to them each year—even during years of drought. In fact, Egypt did build a number of reservoirs in Sudan, thus making it possible to bring water to all of the areas under cultivation in Egypt and Sudan at that time, without any conflicts occurring. Documents concerning this agreement were exchanged in 1959, and the water allocation for each party was determined in accordance with the requirements of the land area under cultivation at that time—and these water allocations were 48 billion cubic meters per year for Egypt and 4 billion cubic meters per year for Sudan.

After that time, the steady increase in area under cultivation in both Egypt and Sudan led people to examine the possibility of increasing the river flow in order to provide water for the newly cultivated areas. Research undertaken by the Egyptian Ministry of Irrigation showed that it was possible to achieve this increase either by means of construction of dam installations in the upper reaches of the Nile in order to store the Nile waters that otherwise would go to waste there and then bring this water to both Egypt and Sudan or by means of building a single large dam in Egypt to store all of the floodwaters, part of which would otherwise partially be lost because it would end up in the Mediterranean and thus not be used. Egypt and Sudan preferred the latter option for geopolitical considerations, which are easily understandable. Egypt and Sudan entered into lengthy negotiations concerning the parceling out of these additional water resources, and this led to the 1959 agreement. In accordance with this agreement, Sudan received an average of 14.5 billion cubic meters per year. These water resources were in addition to the water resources that Egypt and Sudan were utilizing at the time of the signing of the agreement and that were considered to be a right that they had acquired. As stated above, the amount of these water resources was determined in the 1959 agreement. Thus, Egypt's share of the water became 55.5 billion cubic meters per year, and Sudan's share became 18.5 billion cubic meters per year. One should bear in mind that Egypt assumed all the expenses of building the High Dam and the expenses of land compensation and relocating the inhabitants of the areas in Nubia that were submerged when the water level behind the High Dam rose.

There Is No Sensible Reason

No one can find a sensible explanation for why Sudan is calling for an end to adherence to the 1959 agreement. It is just as beneficial to Sudan as it is to Egypt, and the agreement gives water resources to Sudan that are in excess of its capability to utilize them. As of today, Sudan has not been able to utilize all of its share of the water resources allocated to it by this agreement. More than 35 years after the agreement was ratified, Sudan has not succeeded in noticeably increasing the amount of land it has under cultivation. Also, Sudan has not increased the water storage capacity on its rivers in order to absorb the additional water resources that the agreement has allowed it to have. On the contrary, Sudan faces the problem of this capacity being diminished because of the silting-up of its reservoirs, especially those on the Blue Nile and the 'Atbarah river, and because of increased rates of evaporation there. Sudan is also squandering its water resources because of its insistence on pursuing the civil war with the inhabitants of southern Sudan. This prevents Sudan from making use of the water resources available from the equatorial highlands, which constitute a source of fundamental reserves for long-range plans for total utilization of the water resources by both Egypt and Sudan. Sudan is the richest of the lands in the Nile basin when it comes to water resources. On the average, its per capita share of fresh water is four times that of Egypt.

Joint Challenges in the Future

The truth is that obstruction of the work of the Permanent Technical Authority is just as harmful to Sudan as it is to Egypt. The two countries are outlets for the river and do not significantly contribute to the river flow. The water that they receive comes from other nations that are the sources of the river and that could cause trouble for Egypt and Sudan if they decided to withhold any portion of the water resources for their own use without negotiating and coming to an agreement with Egypt and Sudan concerning this matter. Thus, in the long run, Egypt and Sudan have the same problems. This means that they must ally themselves with each other in order to confront the challenges of the future that are now apparently already lurking on the horizon. Ethiopia is now demanding 20 billion cubic meters of the waters of the Nile in order to cultivate 7 million feddans of land, 40 percent of which is west of the Ethiopian highlands and the rest of which is in the Subat basin. Discussion of this demand requires total cooperation between the three nations concerned—Ethiopia, Sudan, and Egypt—in order that redistribution of the limited water resources be accomplished with a minimum of damage to each of them. Cooperation between these nations would allow large quantities of water to be saved that are now being wasted due to evaporation from the water surfaces of existing reservoirs. An estimated 14 billion cubic meters per year are now being lost due to evaporation (that is, 16 percent of all of the water stored). More than three-fourths of the water could be saved by transferring the location of the reservoirs to the upper reaches of the Blue Nile and minimizing the water surface area of the existing reservoirs in Sudan and Egypt since this would minimize the amount of water lost due to evaporation. A new study dealing with this matter has estimated that it would be possible to save from 9 to 10 billion cubic meters just by means of this step. But an idea such as this could not be realized without complete cooperation among all the nations in the Nile basin in order that the river's discharge be monitored, all along its course, by the Permanent Technical Authority, an organization in which all the nations of the Nile basin would participate. If there is no such cooperation and each nation individually builds whatever installations it feels like building, without taking into consideration the damages that these installations would cause to the other nations in general, then there will be chaos and distress, which will inevitably affect the nations into which the Nile flows and these nations could not afford to rule out the possible necessity of using force. Sudan is setting the worst possible example by obstructing the work of the Permanent Technical Authority, which is presently undertaking the task of regulating the distribution of the Nile waters. This is irresponsible action, no matter which criteria you use to judge it, and it may have a limited effect on Egypt's water supply in the short run. The High Dam lake is full of water, and water will continue to come into this lake. Sudan is not able—nor will it be able for many years to come—to prevent water from coming to this lake, other than by building dams or diversion canals. Building such installations requires scientific and technological knowledge, as well as huge amounts of capital, and Sudan does not possess these things. Furthermore, the Sudanese Government does not have enough weight internationally for it to even think about building such installations, which would be incompatible with all international law and practices. If the floodwaters continue to flow normally during the coming years, Egypt's water supply would not be affected very much. But, if the water flow were diminished due to drought for a number of years in a row, then Egypt would be affected by this. In any case, Egypt insists on having the existence of an agency that monitors the implementation of the 1959 agreement and ascertains whether or not each of the two nations is receiving the share of water it is entitled to. If Sudan refuses to honor the implementation of the 1959 agreement, the effect of this action will be felt in the long run, and this will force Egypt to decide to create an alternative mechanism for monitoring compliance with the agreement.

Contributions to Sudan's Dam Capacity Viewed

95LD0099A Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 7 Jul 95 p 19

[Article by Sa'id Tawfiq: "It Is Impossible for the Nile Agreement To Be Unilaterally Canceled"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-Hadi Radi, minister of public works and water resources, has said that the 1959 Nile water agreement was reached within an international legal framework and in accordance with international practices, and it cannot be unilaterally abrogated. According to him, cancellation of the agreement would be legally difficult, if not impossible.

The minister added that reasonable people in Sudan fully understand that canceling the Nile water agreement is the red light that one cannot pass through, since it is the instrument by means of which the Nile basin nations act in accordance with international treaties. The minister said, in an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR, that the 1959 agreement is for the benefit of both Egypt and Sudan. Dr. Radi demanded that the Sudanese become aware of this fact and pointed out that Sudan, in fact, is not capable of taking away even one drop of Egypt's share of water resources from the Nile, which amounts to 55.5 billion cubic meters, and that encroaching upon Egypt's water resources is something that would harm Sudan more than Egypt.

In addition to this, Engineer Ibrahim Zaki Qinawi, the former minister of irrigation, has informed us that Sudan does not possess the technical capability of cutting off or meddling with Egypt's water resources. If Sudan even thought of doing this, it would then suffer dire consequences. Sudan does not have the capacity to store Egypt's water resources in Sudan. In fact, when we built the High Dam, we gave Sudan more than its share of water resources. Sudan receives a third of all the water resources provided by the High Dam and has not paid a single penny for it. We left Sudan with the Jabal al-Awliya' dam, and Sudan uses this dam to store 2 billion cubic meters of water per year. If such a dam were built today, its cost would be in the hundreds of millions.

The chief irrigation engineer adds that it was Egyptian irrigation engineers who built all the irrigation installations in Sudan, the most important of which are the Jabal al-Awliya' and Rusayris dams. Sudan did not spend a single penny on the construction of these installations. Egypt also built most of the buildings in Khartoum, Juba, and Malakal, and our efforts there were the same as our efforts in Egypt.

It is presently a known fact that Egypt has 20 engineers in Sudan who are employees of the Egyptian Ministry of Public Works and Water Resources. Six of these engineers work in the al-Shajarah area south of Khartoum, five of them work in the Malakal area 80 kilometers south of Khartoum, and four other engineers work in stations outside urban areas—one in each of four stations. These four stations are the Rusayris station and the Sannar station on the Blue Nile, the 'Atbarah station on the 'Atbarah river, and the Dunqulah station on the main branch of the Nile. In addition to this, there are five other engineers who are working in the capital city of Khartoum. Furthermore, Egypt has sent to Sudan 34 administrative employees, 15 of whom work in Khartoum, seven of whom work in the al-Shajarah area, and probably 12 of whom work in the Malakal area. The person in charge of this team of administrative personnel is a ministerial undersecretary, and his headquarters is in Khartoum. Egypt has also provided Sudan with a number of public resthouses, workshops, maritime vessels [wahdat bahriyah], and land vehicles and has built administrative buildings and offices there. And in Khartoum alone there are 28 residences built by the Egyptians, which have been totally appropriated by the Sudanese authorities. In the al-Shajarah area, there are 28 small residences, in addition to living quarters built for the guards and workers. Also, there are 68 residences in the Malakal area, 44 river vessels [wahda nahriyah] in the al-Shajarah area, and eight river vessels in the Malakal area.

The Egyptian inspection group in Sudan undertakes the hiring of the Sudanese work force for these dam installations, which numbers 450 permanent Sudanese personnel and another 300 Sudanese personnel who are hired on a seasonal basis. The Egyptian Ministry of Public Works also has a two-story inspection building in Khartoum, a building in the al-Shajarah area, and another building in the Malakal area. The job of these employees is to monitor water movement, measure water discharge, measure the river flow, and clean out water grasses and weeds. These Egyptian employees are in Sudan in accordance with the 1959 agreement that was signed by the two countries. They operate independently and perform their work in cooperation with the Permanent Technical Authority, which is a joint Egyptian-Sudanese organization dealing with the Nile water resources, and the organization includes representatives from both nations. All of these installations and river vessels [wahdat nahriyah] are the property of Egypt.

Sudan

Government Condemns Sarajevo Market Bombing

EA2908164795 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudan has stressed its strong condemnation of the Sarajevo market massacre and has declared its condemnation of the constant Serb aggression against innocent civilians in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

This was stated in a communique issued by the Foreign Ministry 29 August during a news conference convened at the ministry. The communique also condemned the behavior of the UN and its agencies in Bosnia in spite of all the resources at their disposal.

The communique said that in the throes of all these disastrous events, Sudan had decided to boycott the celebrations attending the 50th anniversary of the founding of the international organization, and to support the call of the prime minister of the people's Republic of Bangladesh for the convening of an emergency Islamic summit to consider the events in Bosnia and the marshalling of Muslims' resources.

Sudan supports the decision by the Islamic conference [organization's] liaison committee on Bosnia-Herzegovina calling on Islamic states not to observe the arms embargo. Sudan calls on all Islamic states to implement this decision and to take action to send arms to Bosnia.

Professor 'Abd-al-Aziz Shiddu, the minister of justice and attorney general, has said there is no evidence more convincing of the UN's lack of credibility in the field of human rights than the disastrous events affecting Bosnia-Herzegovina today. He said he would contact all quarters concerned with human rights in Sudan and call on them to coordinate their stance and to take steps designed to help bring about peace in Bosnia.

Professor Shiddu called on the coordinator of the UN Human Rights Committee to perform his role in this respect, instead of talking about matters irrelevant to what is going on in Bosnia today.

Authorities Release 3 Detained Egyptian Workers

NC2908164795 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 29 Aug (MENA)—The Sudanese security authorities this afternoon released 3 Egyptian employees of the Khartoum branch of the Egyptian Company for Reinforced Concrete Work following a 40-day detention. They are Sayyid Khalid, Kamal Shalabi, and Mahmud al-Rashidi. Only one company employee, Barsum Nasif, remains in detention.

Earlier the Sudanese security authorities released Engineer 'Ali 'Abd-al-Latif, the company's branch manager in Khartoum, who remained in Sudan to do his job. The Sudanese authorities deported three of the company's engineers to Cairo after getting their passports and tickets from company officials.

The Sudanese security authorities have not given any reason for the arrest of these employees nor have they given any explanation of their release.

Tunisia

Interior Minister Warns of 'Islamist Threat'

LD2708145495 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Tunisia, the interior minister has warned against the Islamist threat to the country. Speaking before a group of Tunisian ambassadors to foreign countries, Mohamed Jegham asserted yesterday that Tunisia is being targeted by destructive elements operating from abroad. He gave no further details, but he said that there should be improved structures for, and closer contact with, Tunisian nationals who have settled overseas.

It is no secret that several leaders of the clandestine Islamist movement al-Nahdah live in Europe.

Western Sahara

Representative of Missing Detainees Interviewed

LD2908182995 Paris Radio France International in French 1230 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our guest today is Abdessalam Omar el Hassan. He is the interim president of the association of families of Sahrawi disappeared-detainees.

Since the beginning of the conflict in Western Sahara in 1975, several hundred civilians have been arrested by Moroccan police. It is believed 525 men and women have disappeared. They were never put on trial and are nowhere to be found on the books of the Moroccan prison administration. Nobody can say whether some of them are still alive or not.

Moreover the peace plan signed between Morocco and the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front in 1991 under the aegis of the United Nations did not make it possible for this issue to make significant progress.

Donaig Le Du met Abdessalam Omar el Hassan in Sahrawi refugee camps in southern Algeria on the occasion of the ninth congress of the Polisario Front:

[Begin recording] [El Hassan] These people were never put on trial. They are not [words indistinct] in Morocco. They are somewhere, in centers such as Kalaat Magouna [name as heard] and Tazmamarcht, and there is a center we know of in Laayoune. Some missing persons go through that center systematically before going on to other centers. They are the Sixth May barracks, which are mobile intervention corps. They are anti-riot corps.

[Donaig Le Du] Why do you think these 520 missing persons are still alive?

[El Hassan] We cannot be sure, because we have not had any news from them since their arrests, but we hope that some of them are still alive, and this is what gives us hope to continue our struggle until they reappear.

[Donaig Le Du] Is it hope or have you got any precise information? Do messages come from these prisons, or is there absolute silence?

[El Hassan] There has been absolute silence so far, unfortunately. In 1982 Morocco, which had so far always denied their existence, released 310 of these missing people who had been detained in secret centers, including in Agades and Kalaat Magouna [names as heard]. Most of them are still under house arrest and have not enjoyed their right to go back to work. However, some have been able to join the Sahrawi refugee camps, but the remainder are still under pressure, and they can be imprisoned once again. It has been the case for about 10 of them, who have been imprisoned once again.

[Donaig Le Du] People who are in territories under Moroccan control?

[El Hassan] Yes, in most cases. Some have been deported to the Moroccan hinterland, especially at the beginning of the identification process. Among other things, Morocco aims to prevent them from taking part in this process.

[Donaig Le Du] What can you do right now? Are you working together with international organizations?

[El Hassan] We are working in close cooperation with human rights non-governmental organizations, including Amnesty International. We also have a human rights bureau in Geneva which coordinates our action in Europe. We also have the support of many non-governmental organizations, including FEDEFAM, which is the international Federation of Associations of Families of Disappeared in the world.

[Donaig Le Du] As for the Moroccan human rights organizations, have contacts been established?

[El Hassan] Yes, this is a first concerning this issue in that the Moroccan Human Rights Association has expressed its support for Saharan inmates who were recently sentenced to between 15 and 20 years in jail by a military court in Rabat on 21 June this year. It attended the trial and published a report asking for their release.

[Donaig Le Du] I have heard that there are several tens, a few hundred, Moroccan prisoners of war released by the Polisario but who are still here. Can you explain that to me?

[El Hassan] That's right, this is a very regrettable case. Since 1989, 200 Moroccan prisoners have been released unconditionally by the Polisario Front, but Morocco still won't allow them to return home.

[Donaig Le Du] Why?

[El Hassan] We don't know. The CCR, [as heard, expansion unknown], which got in touch with Morocco... [pauses] The latter answers that this is not part of the peace plan. Unconditional releases are not a part.

[Donaig Le Du] But Morocco has acknowledged the existence of these prisoners of war?

[El Hassan] Not... [pauses] Not officially. So far, there has been no official acknowledgement of these prisoners, and what is regrettable is the fact that most of them are elderly people, sick people who need to go back home and to be close to their families. We think something should be done about this very sad case for which we, the families of Sahrawi disappeared-detainees, feel particular sympathy, and we would like these people to be able to return to their homes as soon as possible. [end recording]

Kuwait

Sources at Odds on Possible Husayn Kamil Visit

MM2908162695 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Aug 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Faris al-Salman and Sa'id 'Isa: "Reports of Visit to Kuwait by Husayn Kamil Within Days"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] A diplomatic source in Kuwait stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT yesterday that General Husayn Kamil, the Iraqi industry minister who defected to Jordan, will visit Kuwait this week. Meanwhile, a Kuwaiti political source said that Kuwait has received no communication from Gen. Husayn Kamil.

Asked whether Kuwait would receive him if he contacted the Kuwaiti Government, the political source told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: "We will talk about it then." [passage omitted]

Papers Report 'Military Zone' Near Iraqi Border

NC3008101295 Paris AFP in English 0920 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kuwait City, Aug 30 (AFP)—Kuwait has declared a swath of territory near the border with Iraq as a "military zone" closed to all civilians, newspapers said Wednesday [30 August].

The order concerns 414 square kilometres (165 square miles) of land and sea in a zone known as Jal al-Zawr, 80 kilometres (50 miles) northwest of Kuwait city near Iraq's southern border which is used by divers and pleasure-cruisers.

Former Iraqi industry minister General Husayn Kamil Hasan, who defected to Jordan on August 8, said Iraq was planning to invade Saudi Arabia and Kuwait at the end of the month.

The amir, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, announced that "the Jal al-Zawr region has been turned into a military zone and access is forbidden to civilians from now on," newspapers said.

There was no official explanation for the order, which came as 1,400 US troops began war games in the Udayri' al-Khullah desert close to Jal al-Zawr.

The United States stepped up its military presence in the Gulf region and brought forward maneuvers scheduled in Kuwait to deter Iraq from any strike against its neighbours following reports of unusual troop movements.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah began a diplomatic mission to prepare for any developments in Iraq with a visit to Saudi Arabia late Tuesday.

Shaykh al-Sabah met Saudi King Fahd in Jeddah on the Red Sea, on the first leg of a tour which will also take him to Egypt and Syria.

The Kuwaiti daily AL-SIYASAH, close to the government, said the minister would try to drum up a concerted stand on Iraq following the defection of Hasan, a son-in-law of President Saddam Husayn.

Shaykh Sabah was also to discuss relations with Jordan, which soured after the 1991 Gulf War but have improved after the defection. Kuwait has said it may be prepared to send oil to Jordan to replace Iraqi supplies.

Mission to Egypt, Syria Linked to Iraqi Situation

MM3008111295 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 30 Aug 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ghunaym al-Mutayri, Sa'id 'Isa, and Alan George: "Kuwaiti Move To Consult With Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria Over Developments"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Kuwait, Muscat, London — Kuwait has started a move to conduct consultations with Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria over new developments in the region. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, said in a statement yesterday that he was carrying a message in this connection to Custodian of the Two Holy Places King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz from Kuwaiti ruler Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al- Sabah. He will also convey messages to Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and Egyptian President Husni Mubarak.

Meanwhile, on the sidelines of the consultations concerning the Omani-Jordanian summit meeting scheduled to begin today in Salalah between Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id and King Husayn, sources have revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT a new dimension of significance as regards developments in the Iraqi situation, which constitutes the main issue in the consultations. The sources said that Jordanian- Omani coordination has existed for some time and the sultanate has been very close to recent developments, which Omani officials have followed closely. And they have been in constant contact with the parties concerned.

In Kuwait, in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT before his departure for Riyadh on a tour which will take him to Egypt and Syria as well, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that he will convey to the custodian of the two holy places a message from Shaykh Jabir "within the framework of the consultations with the brothers in Saudi Arabia, in order to unify views over events in the region and to seek the participation of the brothers in Egypt and Syria in crystallizing a collective view vis-a-vis the events."

Shaykh Sabah said that he will convey two similar messages to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad concerning events in the region.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister stressed that Iraq must implement all the UN resolutions and quickly reveal the fate of Kuwaiti prisoners and hostages held in its jails.

On the defection of General Husayn Kamil, Iraqi industry minister and director of the Industrialization Organization, Shaykh Sabah said: "We are following the situation and monitoring various reactions vis-a-vis the situation in Iraq."

On his expectations as regards the fate of the regime in Iraq, Shaykh Sabah said, "we are for whatever eases the Iraqi people's suffering from the tragedies inflicted on them by the regime. And we are for a regime that complies with international conventions by maintaining good-neighborliness and speeds up the release of Kuwaiti prisoners and hostages." [passage omitted]

POW Committee Holds Meeting on Iraqi Border

LD2908183195 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1704 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kuwait, 29 Aug (KUNA) — The technical committee stemming from the tripartite committee in charge of studying the issue of Kuwaiti POW's and missing held a six-hour meeting here today under the chairmanship of Michel Ducreaux, the head of Red Cross mission in Baghdad. Arnold Luethold, head of the Red Cross office in Kuwait, told KUNA that the meeting was held for the first time along the Kuwaiti-Iraqi borders, which was, he pointed out, an important step.

Regarding the issues discussed during the meeting and its outcome, Luethold said that "all the minutes are classified and I cannot reveal them because that would be against the office's bylaws."

On his part and in a statement to KUNA, Dr. Ibrahim al-Shahin, deputy chairman of the National Committee for the Affairs of POW's and the Missing and head of the Kuwaiti delegation, said that the meeting which was attended by Iraq, Saudi Arabia, the United States, France, and the United Kingdom, would resume discussing the remaining items of the agenda tomorrow. [Passage indistinct]

Dr. al-Shahin made clear that the National Committee for the Affairs of the POW's and the Missing would issue a statement tomorrow including the issues discussed today and tomorrow and the outcome reached.

It is worth mentioning that Iraq and Kuwait had held 13 meetings on the issue of POW's in Geneva under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross and with the attendance of representatives from the United States, France, the United Kingdom, and Saudi Arabia.

Oil Minister on Embargo on Iraq, Jordan, Market

NC3008090195 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic
27 Aug 95 p 5

[Interview with Oil Minister 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Mid'aj by Sana' al-Sa'id in Kuwait; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [al-Sa'id] To what extent might developments in the region affect oil prices?

[Al-Mid'aj] Generally, oil prices depend largely on the political situation and on developments in the market and industry. No doubt current events will influence oil prices, whether negatively or positively, especially as the Gulf's oil represents a primary source for world industry. Any military developments in the region would affect the price and global oil supplies.

[Al-Sa'id] Has Kuwait taken every precaution to prepare for any event?

[Al-Mid'aj] We always take precautions. The treacherous Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was harsh but we benefited much from it. We expect disturbances to occur occasionally. We are very careful as far as oil is concerned. We follow things closely and continuously. We hope there will be no military confrontation in the region.

[Al-Sa'id] The main U.S. objective is reportedly to penetrate the region to seize the oil. The United States is using the Iraqi threat as a pretext in this regard although it knows Iraq lacks the force to launch any offensive.

[Al-Mid'aj] This is politics and I am purely an economist. I believe the region's oil is currently a commodity linked to international interests in general. Accordingly, the world will consistently want to keep the region secure and prevent events from emerging that could impede oil supplies abroad.

[Al-Sa'id] In light of recent events are you prepared to supply Jordan with oil?

[Al-Mid'aj] This depends on political decisions. So far no political decisions have been made to supply Jordan with oil officially. But we will have our say when the issue is raised.

[Al-Sa'id] What about your relations with Israel?

[Al-Mid'aj] There are absolutely no relations with Israel. We have not yet thought of it. We view relations with Israel on the basis of its relations with the Arab countries collectively. This, undoubtedly, depends on a full and comprehensive peace process and on reaching an agreement between all the Arab countries and Israel. Only then will we be part of our brothers. Hence there can be no relations or oil projects with Israel before that happens. This will never happen as long as the Arab boycott exists. Kuwait is committed and will never conclude any deals in the absence of a comprehensive peace on all the Arab fronts.

[Al-Sa'id] The principal motive for the continuing embargo on Iraq is reportedly to keep it away from the oil market, because if Iraq resumes oil production it will harm the OPEC countries' oil quotas.

[Al-Mid'aj] I do not think this is true. But the world's insistence on keeping the embargo on Iraq is due to the Iraqi regime's practices. It is an aggressive regime that still possesses destructive weapons and is still prepared to invade any neighbor. Iraq's practices, inside or outside the country, over the past 15 years have all been aggressive. Therefore, unless Iraq honors and implements all the UN resolutions, particularly those pertaining to the release of our prisoners held in its prisons and the return of our property, there will be no possibility of lifting the embargo. It would be rather difficult to allow the Iraqi regime to carry out its acts of aggression. [passage omitted]

Minister Discusses Arms Deals, Contacts With U.S.

NC3008073895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0500 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 Aug (MENA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Ahmad al-Hamud al-Jabir al-Sabah has said his country asked Egypt to participate in the exercises Kuwait will hold in March and April 1996.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-WAFD, the mouthpiece of the Egyptian opposition Wafd Party to be published today, al-Jabir said that Egypt and Italy will participate in the Kuwaiti air defense development plan.

Al-Jabir pointed out that his country will soon be getting weapons deals estimated at around $2 billion. One deal consists of British Warrior armored personnel carriers [APC's] and U.S. APC's. In addition, a Russian arms deal constitutes BMP-3 APC's and Smerch Multiple Rocket System launchers.

Asked about the content of U.S. contacts with Kuwait in light of recent developments, the Kuwaiti defense minister said: Contacts have taken place with friends to whom we are linked by agreements.

On whether these contacts touched on toppling Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's regime, he said: We are discussing an established regime in Iraq. Our discussions with the U.S. side focussed on work for the future and the steps we will be taking. When we hold talks with them we agree over some issues and disagree over others. But at least we talk.

With regard to the content of these agreements, al-Jabir said: We have agreed to strengthen our Armed Forces and to have a U.S. force participate with us in the training.

Asked whether Iraq constitutes a threat to Kuwait, the Kuwaiti defense minister said we cannot feel reassured as long as the ruling regime in Baghdad remains in power.

Regarding fears that the United States is attempting to divide Iraq, al-Jabir said: I do not know the objectives of U.S. policy but we do not wish to see Iraq divided. We want it united, despite our opposition to the ruling regime in Iraq.

Regarding his predictions on the Iraqi regime and whether it will be toppled soon, he said: I cannot set a specific date for that but I believe Saddam will leave his position. I do not expect him to request political asylum anywhere.

He added that the Iraqi president still has power and is still the man in control of everything. He holds the strings. Whether this regime will stay in power still depends on the Iraqi people themselves.

Oman

King Husayn of Jordan Arrives in Muscat

JN2908163295 Muscat Radio Oman Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn Bin-Talal of fraternal Jordan arrived in the country this afternoon on a two-day private visit to the sultanate. His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id led those who received His Majesty King Husayn at Salalah civilian airport. [passage omitted]

His majesty's visit to the sultanate is part of consultations the two leaders hold on developments in the Arab and regional arenas to arrive at the best visions and to serve the mutual Arab interests and those of the region's peoples. The visit also comes to stress the importance of brotherly ties between the two fraternal countries and between their two wise leaderships and to enhance cooperation for the benefit of the fraternal Omani and Jordanian peoples. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks With Sultan

JN2908164695 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in English 1600 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] His Majesty Sultan Qabus and His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan held a session of talks this evening at al-Hisn Palace in Salalah. The session covered relations between the two countries, ways of strengthening cooperation between them, and other matters of common concern. These matters included Arab issues of common concern to the leaders of the two countries. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Arrives in Jeddah

LD2908200295 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1912 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 29 Aug (KUNA) — Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, arrived here today on a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia at the start of a tour that also includes Egypt and Syria. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sabah's visit also comes within the framework of the recent development of the situation inside Iraq in light of the defection of the two sons-in-law of the head of Baghdad's regime to Jordan on 8 August.

Yemen

Prime Minister Discusses Ties With U.S. Ambassador

JN2908173095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani received U.S. Ambassador in Sanaa David Newton today.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed a number of issues dealing with enhancing bilateral relations in various fields.

Defector: Saddam Bid To Form New Government 'Futile'

MM2908123195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Aug 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by 'Imad al-Furayh, 'Adnan Husayn, and Salwa al- Ustuwani: "Husayn Kamil Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: Saddam Will Fail To Form New Iraqi Government"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, London, Damascus, Baghdad, news agencies — Informed sources in Amman announced yesterday that several prominent Iraqi political figures have turned down Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's invitation to participate in a new government he is working to form under Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi. The figures set conditions for any participation, especially the abolition of the Revolution Command Council and the National Assembly, in addition to defining the roles of the party and the ruling party members.

General Husayn Kamil, the former Iraqi official, believes that the Iraqi president wants silent ministers.

Commenting on reports saying that Saddam Husayn has made contacts to form a new Iraqi government, Gen. Husayn Kamil told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that current attempts in Baghdad to form a new government, and the contacts with political figures and parties to join it, are futile attempts which will not lead to any positive results. He added that President Saddam Husayn tends to resort to such attempts whenever he is in a dilemma. He approached a number of these figures in the past, namely in the spring of 1991, after the second Gulf war was over and in the wake of the events Iraq experienced at the time, with a view to joining the government formed by Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi. But they refused to participate after they discovered that the regime was trying to exploit them to improve its image.

Husayn Kamil stressed that President Saddam Husayn wants silent ministers who would implement his orders without any argument. This is why a number of nationalist and pan-Arab figures refused to participate in the previous governments. They have also refused to participate in the new government he is trying to form at present. [passage omitted]

Saddam Kamil Says 'Udayy Wants To Oust Father

MM2908144595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 26 Aug 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Zuhayr Qusaybati: "Stressing Iraqi Services Responsible for Talib al-Suhayl's Assassination in Beirut, Saddam Kamil Tells AL-HAYAH: 'Udayy Shot Watban; Three Coup Attempts Foiled During War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] London — Staff Colonel Saddam Kamil, son-in-law of Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, has confirmed that Baghdad thwarted three attempts to topple President Saddam Husayn's regime during the Gulf war. In a telephone interview yesterday, he disclosed details of the plan discussed at the highest level in Iraq, prior to his defection to Jordan with his brother Staff General Husayn Kamil, to invade Kuwait again and attack Saudi Arabia.

Saddam Kamil described the Iraqi president's son 'Udayy as "reckless," pointing out that he shot and injured Saddam Husayn's half-brother Watban Ibrahim al-Hasan al-Tikriti in a recent incident "in which six women were killed" in Baghdad. He added that "Qusayy fears his brother 'Udayy, who is a tool and who receives orders from his father." He also expressed his belief that 'Udayy "would not hesitate to remove Saddam if he had the opportunity, but the Army would not consent to it."

Saddam Kamil confirmed also the Iraqi organs' responsibility for the April 1994 murder of opposition figure Shaykh Talib al-Suhayl al-Tamimi in Beirut, while ruling out Baghdad's connection to the New York World Trade Center bombing or to Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf, who is accused of being the "mastermind" behind the bombing. Staff Col. Saddam Kamil went on to say: "It is not unusual for them (Iraqi organs) to carry out such an operation."

He criticized 'Udayy's "reckless" behavior, stressing that "his ambition is to seize power, he is trying to overthrow his father." Recounting details of the incident in which Watban Ibrahim al-Tikriti was wounded, he said: "'Udayy killed six women and wounded three men, among them Watban, in the incident that took place after our departure from Iraq."

He added: "Lua'yy, son of the late Khayrallah Talfah (the Iraqi president's uncle), had a disagreement with Watban's nephew, Lieutenant Col. Numayr Adham, and that there was an altercation between them which resulted in Numayr's death. The reason for this fight was a dispute over some business interests they shared with Hasan al-Qassab who was also involved in business dealings with 'Udayy and Lua'yy. The latter complained to 'Udayy who intervened, shot and injured Watban and two other people, and killed six women."

Staff Col. Saddam Kamil added: "It was 'Udayy who killed Kamil Hannah in 1988 or 1989 as I recall, and this is a well-known fact. In Geneva, he shot and paralyzed an Iraqi Embassy employee." He expressed the view that Baghdad was responsible for Shaykh Talib al-Suhayl's murder "despite their denial, as they are adept at fabrication."

In reply to a question, Saddam Kamil said that his brother Hakim, who was in charge of the Iraqi president's personal security, had also defected to Jordan with Husayn Kamil, and explained that his other brother Jamal "was arrested by the special security forces after we left Iraq" with the president's two daughters Raghad and Rana.

The Iraqi president's son-in-law described the "allegations that Raghad and Rana had been drugged" in order to move them to Amman as a "fabrication," pointing out that the convoy of defectors left Baghdad at 1900 hrs and reached the Jordanian capital at 0400 hrs and that "we stopped more than once to refuel." He added that more than 10 people, drivers and companions, had returned to Baghdad, but there were no officers among them.

Saddam Kamil stressed that 'Udayy and 'Ali al-Hasan al-Majid, who visited Jordan after his defection there with his two brothers, "met with His Majesty King Husayn, and we learned that they wanted to see us, but we refused." He added that he was unable to verify news of the death of his father Kamil Hasan and that "I have heard that he has been moved to a hospital in Tikrit."

He reiterated what Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil told AL-HAYAH yesterday, that the Iraqi president "did not take our advice, so we decided to leave and work openly, rather than covertly, because of kinship and commitment to responsibility." Saddam Kamil said that he was Saddam Husayn's companion during the Gulf war "responsible for his personal protection" and entrusted with "security duties."

He was asked at what level the plan "to invade Kuwait again" was discussed. He answered: "In the (Ba'th Party) Regional Command and in the Revolution Command Council (the highest political body) and at the level of the Army command. The retired military commanders were asked to list the negative aspects of the first invasion of Kuwait (summer 1990) in order to avoid repeating the same mistakes. Then they started stockpiling oil and removed Safa' al-Habbubi from his post as oil minister because he did not approve the plan, which was proposed at a cabinet meeting attended by Qusayy Saddam Husayn and Ibrahim 'Abd-al-Sattar, commander of the Republican Guard."

When he was asked how this plan could have seemed convincing after the military defeat suffered by Iraq during the second Gulf war, and in view of the international sanctions imposed on the country for the last five years, he replied: "They (the Iraqi leadership) believe that the coalition is incapable of deploying huge forces as they did during the war, and that troops would be supplied by the United States only; then, if they took Kuwait, they [Iraqi troops] would secure a passage to the sea, and would mount an attack to control the oil of Saudi Arabia's eastern region."

He expressed his hope for change in Iraq, insisting on "working with everyone, inside and outside Iraq." Asked if he favored a military coup, he replied: "Change by any means, what is important is that it will happen." He said that he supported "giving rights to all groups of the Iraqi people," including the Kurds.

As is known, Shaykh Talib al-Suhayl was a member of the "Free Iraqi Council" Central Committee; four Iraqi diplomats were arrested in Beirut after his murder, accused by Lebanese authorities of carrying out the killing on Iraqi Government orders. One of these diplomats, Khalid 'Ulwan Khalaf, died in his Beirut prison in June.

Meanwhile, AL-HAYAH has learned from reliable Iraqi sources that an enlarged meeting of parties and figures opposed to Saddam Husayn's regime will take place in London at the end of the month, to evaluate the developments in Iraq after the break with the regime by President Saddam Husayn's sons-in-law.

The sources said that the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (led by Jalal Talabani), the Kurdistan Democratic Party (under the leadership of Mas'ud Barzani), the Islamic movement, the Iraqi council of tribes, and independent figures including Hamid al-Juburi will attend the meeting.

Hani al-Fukayki confirmed that he had spoken to Staff Gen. Husayn Kamil and "welcomed the proposals he made in his interview with AL-HAYAH, to establish a democratic alternative, to give the Iraqi people the right to set up constitutional institutions, and to protect human rights in the Iraq of the future." He added that he agreed with Husayn Kamil to maintain contacts in order to achieve that goal.

Says Coup Preparations 'Very Advanced'

MM2908161895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Aug 95 pp 1, 4

[Unattributed report: "Saddam Kamil: Priority Given to Our Work Inside, Not Outside the Country"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, Amman, Kuwait, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT news agencies — [passage omitted] Colonel Saddam Kamil, brother of Husayn

Kamil, who defected with him, and the official who was in charge of the Iraqi president's security, has said that "the priority in the efforts being made to change the regime will be given to work inside, not outside Iraq."

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT he added that the circle of support for his brother General Husayn Kamil is expanding and growing in the influential military formations in the country.

He pointed out that "recent arrests, which included a number of military commanders and senior civilian officials, were made at random and have not affected the preparations there, which have reached a very advanced stage."

Col. Saddam Kamil said that "we are seeking change with the least possible sacrifice, in order to spare the blood of our citizens and soldiers." He stressed that "political, psychological, and practical conditions are now completely favorable for the big change that everyone is waiting for, which will end our people's suffering under the blockade, establish a democratic and pluralistic system and elected legislative institutions, and guarantee a dignified and secure life for all Iraqis."

On the meeting said to be planned by Iraqi opposition parties in the British capital at the end of the month, Col. Saddam Kamil said: "The idea of holding the meeting was in response to an initiative from these parties and figures. However, Gen. Husayn Kamil has not been invited to the meeting." He added: "We wish it success, and we shall help every patriotic effort aimed at uniting ranks, bringing views closer, and increasing interaction among all influential political parties." [passage omitted]

'Source' Replies to Husayn Kamil's Challenge

JN2908191195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1833 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA) — INA asked a source at Iraqi Television about his opinion of a statement made by the defector traitor Husayn Kamil today to the AFP correspondent in Amman, in which he challenged Iraqi Television to broadcast the full recording of the meeting of the Iraqi leadership on Iraq's problems with the Security Council's Special Commission. The authorized source at Iraqi Television said:

The defector traitor Husayn Kamil knows nothing about the regulations and standard procedures that govern the minutes of official meetings. No country in the world, whether advanced or underdeveloped, has ever broadcast or published the full discussions of the meetings of the higher political echelons or councils of ministers. This is because such meetings are not television seminars. The information discussed at such meetings pertains to the national security of the country in question. Some countries, such as Britain, do not allow the disclosure of some minutes and official documents until 30 years have passed.

The source added: It is the right of the political leaders to reveal part of these discussions for reasons deemed important by them. This happened when Iraqi Television carried statements by the defector traitor Husayn Kamil, who, in these statements, was the only one to urge the leadership to occupy Kuwait and the eastern region of Saudi Arabia, revoke Iraq's acceptance of Resolution 715 on future monitoring, and stop cooperating with Ekeus. Iraqi Television also carried his statement in which he denounced Jordan and its king, in addition to another statement by him in which he regretted the leadership's decision to recognize Kuwait and asked that more problems be created for Ekeus because it is useless to work with him, calling Ekeus names.

The source added that the defector traitor Husayn Kamil was at his wit's end when his statements were broadcast. He cannot deny his statements. No audio and recording specialist can cast doubt on the truth of these statements. Thus, this traitor began to make confused statements that further reveal how ignorant and stupid he is.

Mubarak Offer To Grant Saddam Asylum Criticized

JN2908150495 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 27 Aug 95

[Report from the "According to Foreign News Agencies" column entitled: "Shame on You, Husni. Saddam is Like Tigris and Euphrates; They Will Not Leave Iraq for Internal and External Hyenas"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo — Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has declared his readiness to grant his Iraqi counterpart political asylum if this will solve the problem.

In a statement to the Saudi newspaper AL-HAYAH published on 26 August, Mubarak said: Egypt is ready to host the Iraqi president as a political refugee if this will solve the problem. Mubarak added that he informed King Husayn of this proposal during his visit to Cairo, but the Jordanian king told him that the Iraqi president is not this kind of person who agrees to abandon power.

Egyptian President's Position on Saddam Criticized

JN2908200495 Baghdad BABIL in Arabic 24 Aug 95 p 1

[Editorial by Mazhar 'Arif: "Light-Headed and Liar"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Based on the saying: If you have no shame, do whatever you like, weightless and light-headed [Egyptian President] Husni has poked his nose in Iraqi affairs. In a statement made on Tuesday, Husni acknowledged that he does not know details about these affairs. However, the head of the Egyptian regime once again interfered in Iraq's internal affairs while claiming that he does not want to interfere in Iraq's affairs, thus falling into the trap of funny contradictions.

But what can light-headed Husni do—if he fails to join the U.S. obsession and agents against Iraq—other than resorting to forgery, lies, and slanders against others to keep receiving his wages in various currencies, including U.S. dollars, Saudi riyals, and Kuwaiti dinars?

Public opinion in Iraq, Egypt, the Arab Homeland, and the world undoubtedly knows the role of both light-headed Husni and his regime in the economic blockade imposed on Iraq and in the military aggression led by the United States against Iraq. The head of the Egyptian regime called for circumventing the facts and shed crocodile tears on the Iraqis and their suffering as a result of the blockade for which the United States, the West, and the agent dwarfs, including the head of the Egyptian regime, are responsible.

It is really ironic that the father of employees working for U.S. banks talked about the two daughters of President leader Saddam Husayn in a way showing blind rancor against Iraq and expressing the wishes of the Americans, the Zionists, and their little agents and henchmen such as the ruler of Egypt, who all wish to see our great Iraq without Saddam Husayn and without his people. Husni also used all means of cheap intrigues and forgery to convince his listeners that what happened was that some members of President Saddam Husayn's family departed from him.

Husni, whose statements show that he is unblessed, not only lost his mind and reason and not only indulged in light-headedness but he also lost the simplest characteristics of a head of state. All that Husni can do now is to pay attention to his personal affairs and to decline from talking about the Iraqi people's suffering and the two daughters of the president leader, so he can comfort himself and others. This is the least Husni can do for the good of himself and his regime.

Opposition Says Commander Defected to Saudia Arabia

NC2908193895 Paris AFP in English
1839 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, UAE Aug 29 (AFP) — The commander of an Iraqi airforce base and several of his officers have defected to Saudi Arabia, one of Iraq's main opposition groups said Tuesday [29 August]. The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said Baghdad's forces surrounded the base and officers' quarters after learning of the defections.

"The commander of the Imam 'Ali air base, in al-Nasiriyah province (in southern Iraq) and several of his officers fled and took refuge in Saudi Arabia on Friday," the group claimed.

It said that another senior officer, General Maytham Hisham al-Tikriti, commander of an armoured vehicle base in President Saddam Husayn's hometown of Tikrit, was executed with three others last week.

The group said the execution was ordered by the president's eldest son, 'Udayy, who had amassed great power after the defection to Jordan on August 8 of General Husayn Kamil Hasan, the industry minister and Saddam's son-in-law.

According to the group, 'Udayy is now in charge of the elite Republican Guard and has sacked three of its officers and arrested dozens of others.

There was no independent confirmation of any of the claims. Kuwaiti newspapers on Monday claimed 'Udayy was under house arrest.

SAIRI, led by Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, is based in Tehran but claims to have widespread support among the Shiite majority in southern Iraq.

Jordanian Magazine Closed Over Qol Yisra'el Interview

TA3008053695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0400 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq has closed down the offices and banned the distribution of the Jordanian magazine AL-BILAD due to an interview granted by its editor-in-chief, Nayif al-Turah, to Qol Yisra'el. In the interview with our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem, al-Turah estimated that Saddam Husayn's regime would collapse within a few weeks.

[A related report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0405 GMT on 30 August notes that al-Turah arrived last night in the territories for a visit. Ben-Menahem notes that when he was asked whether he wished to retract his remarks, al-Turah "smiled from ear to ear" and replied: "I do not think that Saddam Husayn's regime will continue for long because his behavior proves that he is pushing himself to the edge of an abyss."]

'Source' Says Barzan To Become Prime Minister

*JN3008091195 Amman AL-NIDA' in Arabic
30 Aug 95 p 1*

[FBIS Translated Text] Political observers expect dramatic developments on the subject of General Husayn Kamil's defection to Jordan early this month, especially after last week's speech by His Majesty King Husayn, in which he defined Jordan's position on the situation in Iraq and the defection of Iraqi officials to Amman.

These speculations agree with recent reports that spoke about intensive meetings between Husayn Kamil and a number of Iraqi and Arab opposition figures in a step that was described as coordination of efforts in order to change the regime in Iraq.

Political observers believe that the next step by the son-in-law of the Iraqi president, who began to work out a busy schedule for meetings with the Iraqi opposition, is to declare an Iraqi government-in-exile whose aim is to topple the ruling regime in Baghdad.

The observers stress that the United States is taking part in the coordination efforts with Kamil in order to topple the Iraqi president in spite of its announcement that the former director of the Military Industrialization Organization will not be a replacement of Saddam Husayn after the Iraqi president is ousted.

Meanwhile, it is said that the Iraqi Government is at present studying the options for answering back on Jordan after it granted political asylum to General Husayn Kamil. Among these options is halting oil supplies to Jordan and stopping imports of Jordanian products after Baghdad succeeded in reaching agreements with Turkey and Iran according to which it will be able to get all its needs of food and medicine.

Meanwhile, AL-NIDA' learned that the reports carried by a number of news agencies which said that Barzan Ibrahim al-Tikriti, Iraqi ambassador to the UN headquarters in Geneva, joined the Iraqi opposition are baseless.

Our source, which preferred anonymity, said Barzan will return to Iraq soon to assume a ranking position such as prime minister or at least deputy prime minister with wide-ranging powers.

It is noteworthy that Barzan al-Tikriti demands activation of democracy and securing public liberties and pluralism as a prerequisite for his participation in the government.

Meanwhile, Barzan al-Tikriti's wife and daughter have recently arrived in Baghdad.

Envoy Says U.S. Military Buildup 'Unjustified'

*NC2908141695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1335 GMT 29 Aug 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, has denied that his country has any hostile intentions against any state in the region. He called on the Arab states to support Iraq and to adopt stands commensurate with national principles to safeguard security and stability in the region and prevent any foreign meddling in Arab affairs.

In a statement to journalists today, Najm said the U.S. military buildup in the region, especially in the Gulf, is unjustified and is a destabilizing factor. He called for the lifting of the international blockade imposed on Iraq, particularly as his country has shown maximum cooperation with the United Nations to close all files as a prelude to the implementation of Article 22 of Resolution 687. Under this article the Security Council must lift the blockade.

UN's Ekeus Outlines Iraq's Weapons Program

*BR2908135795 Paris LIBERATION in French
29 Aug 95 p 7*

[Interview with Sweden's Rolf Ekeus, head of the special UN commission for disarmament in Iraq, by Luc Lampriere; place and date not given: "Bacteriological Warfare — Iraq's Supreme Weapon"]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Lampriere] Is there anything in the latest revelations from Iraq that surprises you?

[Ekeus] The scale of the [bacteriological warfare] program is greater than we thought. However, we were right not to believe the Iraqi authorities when they assured us at the start of the month that they had destroyed all their culture media immediately subsequent to the invasion of Kuwait. They now admit that most of the culture media produced were in fact converted into weapons in December 1990, the minute the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 678. The anthrax culture media were built into 50 bombs and a dozen long-range missile warheads (the famous al-Husayn Scud missiles — LIBERATION editor's note). Some 100 more bombs and 50 nose cones were equipped with botulism culture media. These weapons were delivered to two air bases in December 1990. They were therefore prepared to use them.

[Lampriere] What devastation could these weapons have wreaked?

[Ekeus] You have to distinguish between the bombs and the missiles. For the bombs, Iraq's experience with chemical bombs may give some indication of what they could do. Where the missiles are concerned, precise knowledge of nose cone-opening techniques is required. They would have had little effect if they had hit the ground at high speed. However, the simple fact that they placed bacteriological agents in missile warheads at least proves that they had confidence in their capacity.

[Lampriere] When were they ready?

[Ekeus] Research into bacteriological weapons goes right back to the 1970's, and 1976 at the latest. It continued until 1985. Then, as the Iraqis admitted this year, research became more systematic. The first production of anthrax and botulism culture media started in 1989. This was a vast program involving five research and production units. This was their biggest secret, at least as secret as their nuclear program, if not more so. Some of them considered it the supreme weapon to be used in the event of attack. At the end of 1990 we calculate that they had 26,500 liters of culture media, most of which was put into weapons. When you look at the use of chemical weapons during the Iran-Iraq war, when filling started it meant that their possible use was imminent. It is important to note that the Iraqis never used these weapons. We are told that they were afraid of a nuclear riposte by the Americans.

[Lampriere] Do you think that the information we received during the Gulf war was accurate?

[Ekeus] Of course the CIA had estimated the scope of this arsenal but it was mostly supposition. In the nuclear domain it is important to note that, despite an intensive program that began in August 1990 (which was also revealed during Rolf Ekeus' last visit to Baghdad — LIBERATION editor's note) aimed at quickly acquiring fissile materials, Iraq was not however capable of producing weapons. In particular, I do not think that they had managed to develop a firing system.

Did your meeting with General Husayn Kamil Hasan confirm what the authorities in Baghdad had said? What was his precise role?

[Ekeus] Let us say that there were no major contradictions. He was technically in charge of these programs but his responsibilities were not military in nature and he was not responsible for their use. The control of the bacteriological weapons was transferred to the military once the weapons had been delivered to the military bases. From there on in, Saddam Husayn was solely responsible.

[Lampriere] How did Kamil Hasan's defection result in the latest revelations?

[Ekeus] In a letter we received on 12 August the Iraqi authorities said that he had been the one who had refused to give us the program details but that now he had gone they could make these revelations. However, in Baghdad Tariq 'Aziz told me, on the contrary, that he himself had made the decision not to give us this information on the bacteriological weapons program. This decision, he said, was part of a strategy aiming to counter what they saw as us making a permanent change in our target. Moreover, they had informed Paris and Moscow that, to avoid new problems arising, they would not hand over this information while we were still investigating their other weapons programs (chemical and missiles) and their nuclear program. He was playing the diplomatic game.

[Lampriere] Are we nearing a lifting of the sanctions?

[Ekeus] These latest revelations have clearly brought us a step closer to the time when we can lift the embargo. I was severely criticized when I suggested this, first by France and now by the United States. Doubtless the remaining checks will take some time yet. However, that depends largely on Iraq: If they give us all the documents and information we ask for, then things will go quickly.

[Lampriere] What are the preconditions?

[Ekeus] There are two preconditions: First, we have to be certain that Iraq no longer still possesses any of the banned weapons and then we have to set up the control system for checking that it cannot acquire new weapons. However, Madeleine Albright, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, reiterated on Friday [25 August] that for the United States the control system is a necessary precondition but that in itself it is not sufficient. Other people consider, on the other hand, that the very language of the resolution clearly links the settlement of the weapons issue to the lifting of the embargo and that the text should be respected to the letter.

[Lampriere] How does the political situation in Iraq enter into things?

[Ekeus] Obviously the current political turmoil in Baghdad is helping us enormously. Just a few days ago, we were faced with an ultimatum from Iraq which was threatening to refuse to cooperate with the Security Council and the Commission after 31 August. This was a serious threat and the situation was very dangerous. Now we know that Kamil Hasan's decision was clearly motivated by his opposition to this policy and his departure was not a personal decision but a political gesture with considerable repercussions in Iraq.

Regime Reportedly Dismisses 50 Medical Students

NC2908164895 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A reliable source in Baghdad has informed us that the 'Aflaqite regime issued recent orders to dismiss 50 students from Saddam's medical college. The students are Kurds, Turkmen, and Christians. The dismissal orders claimed that their loyalty to the bloody regime is questionable.

'Responsible' Source Cited on Missing Kuwaitis

JN2908183395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA)—A responsible Iraqi source asserted that the statement made by Du'ayj al-'Anzi, Kuwaiti official in charge of the so-called missing Kuwaitis' file, in which he claimed that Iraq admitted to have imprisoned 116 persons during the anti-Iraq 1991 aggression is "utterly groundless."

In a statement to the Iraqi News Agency today, the Iraqi source added: Iraq has repeatedly confirmed that it is not holding any Kuwaiti or non-Kuwaiti POW on its territory, and that all POW's had been released after the cessation of the 30-state military aggression in accordance with Resolution 687 under the supervision of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC].

The source went on to say: Iraq has continued to discuss the whereabouts of the Kuwaitis, claimed by Kuwaiti rulers to be missing since the anti-Iraq aggression, within the context of the concerned tripartite committee, of which Kuwait is a member.

The Iraqi source said: Since 8 June 1994, when the policy of investigating the issue on an individual basis was adopted, Iraq has submitted the outcome of its investigations into the whereabouts of the Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti persons who are missing. Iraq has thus far addressed 273 files. Since its inception on 8 December 1994, the technical subcommittee emanating from the tripartite committee has addressed 209 files, as announced by the ICRC during the tripartite committee's meeting held in Geneva on 3-4 August 1995.

The source added: The aforesaid meeting endorsed the closure of two files for two missing Kuwaitis and the withdrawal of two others. Moreover, it endorsed the whereabouts of a female Kuwaiti national, who allegedly was missing. The whereabouts of this Kuwaiti female were established. It transpired that she lives in Baghdad, and that she left her folks of her own volition, as attested to by private interviews with the ICRC mission.

The Iraqi source went on to say: Also during the aforesaid meeting, it was documented that Iraq delivered the remains of a Kuwaiti national to the competent Kuwaiti authorities, who were asked to close his file.

The source stressed that the Kuwaiti statements on the issue, which are part of a media campaign, are in violation of what was agreed upon within the context of the tripartite committee regarding the need not to politicize the issue, which is in sharp contrast with the established international modes of action.

The source indicated that the tripartite committee has repeatedly underlined this course. The last time it did so was during the aforementioned meeting.

Concluding his statement, the Iraqi source described the Kuwaiti policy in this regard as a "flagrant violation of the modes of action established by the tripartite committee, a lowly attempt to promote lies and falsehoods, and a deliberate effort to frustrate the ICRC's endeavors to create positive and propitious circumstances for the technical investigation of the whereabouts of those who are missing," which must be undertaken on the basis of trust, good faith, and joint action.

The source concluded by saying that unless all of the above is observed, the issue would lose its humanitarian aspects and turn into ammunition for propaganda and political deception, as reflected in the statement made by Du'ayj al-'Anzi.

'Provocations' Linked to Iraqi Attitude to UNSCOM

JN2908204895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0810 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA) — The newspaper BABIL says that the U.S. Administration's provocations against Iraq are not new, but this time they are a reaction to Iraq's positive attitude in its dealing with the UN Special Commission [UNSCOM].

In today's editorial, the paper says: Since 10 August, the United States has not stopped its hostile statements against Iraq. These statements, which revolve around alleged Iraqi military concentrations and movements, repeat the same old loathsome threats which surface from time to time in a threatening language that is essentially directed at Iraq and others to create the impression that the United States has the right to concentrate its military forces and to establish a presence, and for the states concerned to continue paying the cost of these concentrations.

BABIL affirms: The whole world knows that spy satellites and planes are circling over different parts of

Iraq around the clock, conducting surveillance, taking photos, and spotting areas under the cover of UN special missions. They are also following the movements of the Iraqi military forces. So, is it logical to say that those means are incapable of observing Iraqi concentrations, which is why the United States has been compelled to establish a massive military presence close to Iraq to get ready to reply to it?

The paper says: The U.S. Administration is seeking to impose its hegemony over the region. It is fabricating lies against Iraq to increase its military presence, and thus guarantee its oil interests.

U.S. Said To Want To Stop Arab Quest for Progress

JN2908114395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0850 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Aug (INA) — An Iraqi newspaper asserts that the U.S. Administration has grown accustomed to creating crises and seizing opportunities in its dealing with Arabs. Its aim is to formulate positions and policies that will tighten the noose around the Arab region.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says in an article today that the U.S. Administration is launching a deceitful attempt to create a political crisis as a bargaining chip in order to deceive the world, mislead UN Security Council members, and prolong the embargo on the Iraqi people.

The paper adds: These goals can aggravate inter-Arab differences and foster inter-Arab distrust, which could then contribute to the disintegration of Arab ranks and weaken the policies intended to safeguard pan-Arab security.

The paper says that the U.S. Administration's strategic objective is to tighten its noose around Arab oil wells and outlets and weaken Arab efforts to thwart external threats.

The paper says that the massive U.S. military presence and its sophisticated combat capabilities are tools of rapid intervention aimed at hitting the sources of Arab strength and building military bases that are capable of controlling the overall Arab policies. This presence violates joint Arab security commitments.

The paper adds: The recently boosted U.S. military presence betrays a plan to draw international attention to certain situations, which the U.S. Administration is blowing out of proportion, in order to give the impression that the United States is still a power that can hold the reins of initiative.

The paper notes: The U.S. claims that its military presence is intended to safeguard the pan-Arab security of the Arab states—or at least some of them—are groundless, because pan-Arab security is an inter-Arab affair. It is impossible to ensure the effectiveness of pan-Arab security unless there is cohesion, integration, and increased cooperation among the Arab sides removed from distrust and disputes.

The paper asserts that the recently boosted U.S. military buildup is not only aimed at beleaguering Iraq, but also at surrounding the Arab nation with a military bulwark in order to stop its quest for progress and weaken its potential for pan-Arab integration and cohesion.

AL-JUMHURIYAH concludes by saying that true pan-Arab security upholds Arab existence and pan-Arab identity. Pan-Arab security is not achieved by foreign fleets. Rather, it is strongly related to Arab consensus and the common Arab will, the paper argues.

Paper Says UN 'Failed' To Keep Peace in World

JN2808161595 Baghdad INA in English
1315 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 28, INA — An Iraqi paper has said that the U.N. organization, throughout the past fifty years since signing on its charter, has failed in keeping peace in the world, reaching solutions for the international disputes and achieving the economic and social cooperation between world states.

In an article on Monday by Hamid Sa'id entitled "The Death of United Nations", BABIL newspaper confirmed the U.N failure in accomplishing its tasks in the world. The world organization has been forced, under pressure of the influence states, to issue resolutions on states like Iraq and Libya while its resolutions against other states are worthless, the paper added.

"U.N Secretary General Butrus Ghali's recognition of the U.N failure is enough to confirm this fact", the daily said.

The paper referred to Malaysian prime minister when he said on this occasion that it is much better to announce the foundation anniversary of the U.N organization as a mourning day due to the U.N. failure in proving to be as a peace guard in the world.

Dual Containment, Ties with Iran Viewed

95LH0226A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 9 Jul 95 p 6

[Article by Zafir Nazim Salman]

[FBIS Translated Text] No principle has been embedded in international relations and has become as firm a tradition as the principle of "good neighborliness." It has even been considered a substitute for dealing between civilized states. Concerns and suspicions naturally exist between neighboring countries. Some supporters of the school of force and realism do not hesitate to stress that a neighboring state is an adversary—at least a potential one—and that wisdom demands dealing with it accordingly and using everything possible to weaken it.

However, if we look closely, even for a second, we can see how this view is getting further from the reality created by the new international situation. It goes without saying that one of the clearest marks of the age is the tendency of the countries of the world to move toward cooperation and solidarity. This is particularly true between states that have always appreciated how costly tensions, conflicts, and wars could be and how much they could exhaust their resources.

If we examine the trends in international politics, we will quickly conclude that the world is moving toward the establishment of blocs and groupings. No time passes without us hearing about the establishment of a new bloc, market, or union, or at least about the revival of blocs that had become inactive. Does not the development of such a phenomenon, in the final analysis, show that cooperation has begun spreading in many parts of the world?

Furthermore, there is a phenomenon no less impressive than this one. It is the change in the priorities that occupy the attention of states and the public opinion in them. Whereas in the past the attention of these states was totally—or almost totally—focused on the security-military factor, today the decisionmakers in the world must deal with other important issues, such as the problems of economic development, the environment, population growth, social security, the transfer of technology, and other issues that no single country can address on its own. They must be dealt with collectively and in solidarity with other states. The international community has adopted a fresh and more accurate view, which is that international security and peace are indivisible and that geographical boundaries cannot stop the spread of such international problems, especially as technological development has turned the world into a "universal village" whose people are directly affected by any problem, however distant it may appear.

If things are like that—and they are—many people have become aware of an indisputable fact. The peoples of the world must concert their efforts to prevent any danger that could break out here or there, however local it may appear. Such dangers could threaten everyone—if not now, then later. While what we have said shows an optimistic picture of wider international cooperation, a very dark spot is evident in this picture. This cooperation exists among certain states, particularly the Western states and states that have made very good industrial and technological progress. The Third World, however, continues to suffer from internal and regional conflicts and wars. This cooperation has generally taken place at the expense of the countries of the Third World, specifically through economic and political arrangements that have one goal: making more gains at the expense of the developing and poor countries. The globe has become clearly divided between a prosperous and stable north and a desperately poor, unstable, and insecure south. The peoples of the North have realized sometime ago that their welfare lies in their cooperation. The peoples of the Third World need to realize this fact even more.

In light of this panoramic view—with its shortcomings—of the international political trend toward cooperation, a question appears useful and practical. Should not the two neighbors, Iraq and Iran, seek channels of cooperation? Is this possible?

To answer the question, we must quickly review some things, which may appear obvious. It is true that there are reasons for disagreement and tension between the two neighboring states. The two countries have a psychological barrier, which was caused by the bitter war that took place between them for eight years. It cannot easily be overcome. There are issues caused by the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah and the mother of battles that can separate them. These issues are known and familiar to everyone. It is a fact that many international and even regional forces do not want cooperation to exist between the two countries. They want the mutual suspicion and fear between them to continue forever.

Undoubtedly, these are considerable obstacles that hinder any serious attempt to resolve the problems between the two countries. Some people think that these obstacles cannot be overcome, but an objective consideration of these obstacles prompts us to contradict such a view.

We must remember one of the first lessons in international relations: there are no permanent enemies and no permanent friends. Take for example the peoples of Europe. They were engaged in more than one long war in which they sacrificed millions of people and suffered heavy material losses. Some states were destroyed, but did this stop them from abandoning their past differences and moving together toward a broader horizon of cooperation and solidarity? Is not what exists between them today a good indication of this fact? Therefore, we are not exaggerating when we say that there are always some sparkling spots under the ruins of war, which could lead to the establishment of strong relations. It is illogical to stop at a certain historic event. It would be like stopping the wheel of history that has been moving since the beginning of creation.

We must admit that there are issues between Iraq and Iran that cannot be ignored or overstepped. What the neighbor state, Iran, had done was definitely not insignificant. We have rights that must be settled and positions that must be resolved. These facts cannot be denied. They can cause concern and rule out credible cooperation. We are aware of the problems, but at the same time, if we change how we look at it, we can say: isn't there something in these same issues that can serve as material for dialogue, discussion, and understanding? Are there any two countries maintaining close cooperation without differences? This must not make us blind to the fact that whatever we do, we must not, even remotely, cross the red line between what is permissible and not permissible in the relations between states. A state's supreme basic interests must not be violated, and its sovereignty and dignity must be respected. I leave this matter to the decisionmakers in Iran to consider.

Nevertheless, there are other issues in the relations between the two countries that are no less important than the previous ones. All these issues provide a good reason for cooperation if Iran can really prove its good faith toward Iraq. Here are some of them. The first is oil. The two are important oil exporting countries. They are definitely interested in better oil prices, oil market stability, and improved terms for dealing with importers. Then, there is the Kurdish issue, which concerns the two countries. Positive cooperation on this issue will definitely limit its effects and promote a fair solution ensuring their sovereignty and independence. Then there is the foreign presence in the area. In principle, the two countries are interested in confronting any foreign presence in the area because it threatens their stability and sovereignty. The two countries are also interested in safeguarding the Arab Gulf as a sea of peace and security because their trade passes through it. Therefore, it is necessary for them to prevent whatever can really or potentially jeopardize their maritime trade routes. Above all, the two countries have close cultural, historical, and religious ties on which they can agree.

There are many suitable issues for discussion and agreement. The two countries can first establish a balanced policy based on common interests. Then they can move on to controversial issues. If they establish realistic goals, moving toward the solution of the problems will not be difficult.

We will now discuss the last issue, which is the international dimension in the relations between the two countries. Based on historical evidence, it has become clear that the big powers do not want Iraq and Iran to be friends. Many experts in Iranian affairs say that one of the most important causes of the downfall of the shah was the dissatisfaction the United States felt regarding the improvement of the relations between Iran and Iraq since 1975. The United States wanted the shah to be the policeman of the area and defend Western interests in the face of the revolutionary countries, particularly Iraq, because of their national and principled positions. The U.S. policy has not changed since then, particularly toward Iraq. Washington now views with concern any sign of a rapprochement between the two countries. It thinks that such a move will threaten its interests and disrupt its calculations because it means a rapprochement between the two largest regional powers. The United States has also created imaginary fears among the Gulf states to keep them dependent on the Western security umbrella and exhaust their resources with additional arms purchases. This envisioned cooperation has become the source of alarm to everyone, as if the area cannot relax until the relations between Iraq and Iran are strained. So, people became wrongly convinced that it is better to keep the situation as it is. This is a dangerous view. In my humble opinion, if such cooperation and rapprochement take place, all the people, on both sides of the Arab Gulf, can enjoy security, peace, and stability.

U.S. policy today still plays this odd tune. It is paradoxical that while the United States lacks a clear policy and strategy in other parts of the world, it maintains a well designed policy in the Arab Gulf. This policy is known as "dual containment." Without going into the details, background, and motives of this policy, it can be said that the United States considers Iraq and Iran as a real threat to vital U.S. interests in the Arab Gulf, and must be contained through political isolation, trade embargo, and, if necessary, armed confrontation. Thus, the two countries have fallen under the pressure of U.S. policy, which is increasing day after day because of arbitrary policies that lack the simplest basis of justice.

Let me sum up by saying that the U.S. "dual containment" policy will find a suitable and fertile ground as long as the relations between Iraq and Iran remain unfriendly. I am very surprised at Iranian diplomacy.

While it displays flexibility and openness toward Western and Eastern countries, and even toward countries that adopted hostile stands toward it in many international forums, it does not show the same understanding toward its neighbor Iraq. If Iran opens its eyes, it will see that its neighbor deserves its attention more than others because it is more capable than others of providing assistance and support. Therefore, if Iran wants to escape the policy of containment, it must begin, with untainted good faith, settling its pending problems with Iraq and responding to its just demands. Then it will definitely find good response from Iraq. It will meet, half way, a hand extended to it to begin together a new chapter based on cooperation and mutual interests. So, if Iraq and Iran want to avoid of the consequences of dual containment, they must take the path of dual cooperation.

Paper Discusses Overtures to Kuwait Via Qatar

JN2508160195 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 16 Aug 95 p 3

[Article by Dr. 'Aziz 'Ali: "Our Joint Iraqi-Gulf House: A Cable to Kuwait From the Protective Diplomatic Squadron"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The pain comes from Kuwait, so why do you not let it go back to it? This is the viewpoint of a West European general and a military correspondent who specializes in Gulf affairs. He believes that Washington, too, will one day get fed up with Kuwaiti stubbornness and recklessness and be tempted to set a scenario for a programmed war in the Gulf with a country other than Iraq, since any real momentum in the direction of stability and peace calls for a heated situation. Besides, he adds, more U.S. diplomats now use the term "diplomatic flabbiness" when referring to U.S. policy on the Iraqi-Gulf file. What catches the attention of this European military correspondent is the growing conviction in some U.S. circles that a war shaking up both the Gulf and Kuwait is possible. Because, as he says, the interacting psychological and political tensions in the Gulf could lead to a more realistic situation, especially if we take into consideration the reality which points to the existence of hotbeds that are being nourished from abroad in order to blow up the situation in the Gulf house. The Bahraini incidents, the tone about anxiety during pilgrimage season, and Iranian arrogance on the issue of the three islands are only few of the many evidences and signs.

However, a Gulf personality, who maintains balanced relations with all sides, has wondered: How could we in the Gulf accept to be dragged into a conflagration for which others would be the direct cause, even if they are partners in the Gulf house? He doubts if even those leaders who hold extreme views on the Iraqi file would allow themselves to fall into a ruinous trap or face an unknown fate. What is disturbing in the Gulf are the repeated assurances by the United States that it could accept the idea of defending the Gulf against any outside attack. But, the United States also believes that matters could become tough and intricate if it would have to tackle the complications of internal clashes, such as riots, or the dangers of a civil war. There is also the theory which everyone has heard and is gaining support in the Congress; namely, that dispatching U.S. armies abroad to fight proxy wars is becoming less palatable and facing more opposition. This is why many Gulf leaders now wonder what they might do in face of any potential internal dangers. It seems that this message is directed at all of Washington's allies in the region, since it also implies a cut in foreign aid to Tel Aviv.

The information given by European diplomats stationed in the Gulf says that from the social and official viewpoint, the Gulf has become a military arsenal threatening confrontations which the local social structure can hardly withstand. They confirm that tactical surface-to-surface missiles are within the reach of non-governmental and even non-Arab hands in the Arabian Gulf. These observers affirm that they believe that all types of weapons would be used in any conflagration in the Gulf, which would cause more casualties among civilians. This concept is based on assessments that those who are setting the scenario have made it clear to the executors in advance that failure would only result in horrific physical liquidations as has happened to the Palestinians, Iraqis, Jordanians, Egyptians, the stateless [bidun], and many Kuwaitis in Kuwait. It would be a terrible clash leaving no room for humane or moral considerations.

Even Tel Aviv now realizes that U.S. officials who demand a cut in foreign aid and strongly wonder if Tel Aviv could pose a future threat to Washington following the demise of Moscow, the removal of the red threat, and the conclusion of peace agreements with the Arabs are now occupying key positions and are growing in number.

The Zionist, Ze'ev Schief, warns of this new reality. In his view, the Jewish watchman is bound to lose much of his glitter and that the Americans might not need him any more now that he is armed to the teeth. An Arab spectator has said that the psychological pressure on the Gulf people is not less serious and exhaustive than the economic embargo on Iraq. It is believed that as is the case always in such circumstances, there is a strong trend toward riding the bandwagon of reconciliation and depriving the enemies of the joint Gulf-Iraqi house of any opportunities. The word going round among young Gulf officers is that despite its wounds, Iraq will not abandon its brothers in the Gulf in the case of any serious danger. They recall President Saddam Husayn's question: Would Israel have dared to strike had Iraq not been besieged?

Therefore, lifting the blockade is a Gulf responsibility for its own security, just as it is a humane and pan-Arab responsibility. This is contrary to some of the voices which are heard in Kuwait saying that the Gulf would face security threats as soon as the Iraqi embargo is lifted. They justify their effort to prolong the Iraqi embargo by arguing that in this case, security exigencies supersede humane and pan-Arab considerations.

We recall here a statement by a Gulf official in which he affirms that Baghdad was the strongest power in the Gulf region and the Middle East militarily, economically, and in manpower. And now, he says, the eastern neighbor in the Gulf house is piling up arms and Tel Aviv possesses a nuclear arsenal, yet some people are contributing to the destruction of Iraqi military power. This Gulf official reminds everyone of Tehran's subversive roles in Algeria, the Gulf, and Tunisia, adding that it is still pursuing the course of exporting its corrupt revolution, which has lost its luster in the Iranian streets.

This Gulf official affirms that the present set up of regional forces is fraught with dangers and that it only threatens the Arabian Gulf through blackmail and wars under the current siege of Iraq and the attempts to destroy it. The Gulf official concludes by underlining the widely-held view in the Gulf concerning the set explosion scenario. He says that foreign media continue to disseminate warnings about the dangers of an Iraqi move in the direction of Kuwait or Riyadh. These leakages, he adds, are not actually intended to warn of the real dangers of an Iraqi move as much as they are a mean device to break up the Kuwaiti and Gulf social and political fabric by playing on people's nerves about an impending incident whose time and impact are unknown. This official confirms that the purpose behind this flood of media reports is to stun the mind and the will so that the Gulf will not see the real dangers threatening it. He says: They are creating such an atmosphere so that it would be possible for them to set off the fuse under the cover of darkness. These psychological warfare tactics restrict actions, preoccupy the mind, and create fears. It is the integrated scenario.

But, this Gulf official stands firm and says that the Gulf people will not submit to this destructive illusion. He affirms that the kinsmen there have begun for some time now talking about the social pain and the harm resulting from the continuation of the Iraqi embargo. Stories by diplomatic sources speak about the existence of a growing unanimity, albeit still shy in some circles, about the need to meet one another on the path of Arab reconciliation. Some people ridicule the voices which link the restoration of relations to the removal of President Saddam Husayn from power. They ask: Were we not eyewitnesses to Iraq's steadfastness, confrontation, and endurance, as embodied by Saddam Husayn, in face of the strongest power on earth? So, how can a sound mind even imagine such an idea. They affirm: Saddam Husayn, who is the guarantor for his country and people, will definitely be a guarantor for regional and Arab security. Any ideas outside of this kind are nothing but sheer humbug.

The major European powers are returning to the Iraqi arena under the leadership of Saddam Husayn and are reiterating their denial of any involvement in the intelligence activities and psychological warfare against Iraq. Since the wager on an internal explosion in Iraq during the most difficult five years has fizzled out, Iraq, which is looking at what is taking place in the Gulf today, cannot possibly allow itself to even contemplate what the international media call the wager on an internal explosion within the Gulf Cooperation Council due to diversity of opinions on the technicalities of Arab reconciliation.

We must admit here that, with the approach of the hour of truth, the level of regional anxiety is rising and there is talk about something looming on the horizon. That unknown something has already positioned itself in the forefront. Perhaps, we can include the Qatari move, along with active Iraqi diplomacy within the framework of this protective move. Baghdad realizes that Doha has become a tree which only bears fruits of accord and reconciliation. As everyone knows, Doha is part of the Gulf, but it is sending messages to everyone saying that it is also with the Iraqi Arab concrete shield which will protect Gulf security from future dangers.

It appears that the rational Gulf moves through Doha, and the official Arab voices in support of these moves, now realize that the option of continuing the embargo on the basis of the old spirit and unanimity is now weak, and in fact tiring. They believe that Kuwait has a big chance to benefit from the present international situation in order to overcome its fears and to transform them into a security and safety package with voluntary Iraqi participation, instead of leaving the situation so lukewarm and disturbed. The removal of the blockade soon without the Kuwaitis giving up their old political language and attitude of rejecting any dialogue with Baghdad, will eventually make them collide with huge mountains, such as those they relied on in the past, which would make any dealing with the Iraqi-Kuwaiti file in the future run counter to the wishes of the Kuwaiti people.

Since there are more U.S. voices rejecting the idea of any eternal association with the Kuwaiti problem, more international, European, and Arab stands demanding an end to absolute endorsement of U.S. political demands on the same problem, and a U.S. awareness that the problem is fraught with dangerous possibilities, then reason and logic say that demands are not achieved by orders or dictates. There would come a time when the Kuwaitis would ask Iraq to end the tension and anxiety without any mutual demands and with everyone remaining where he is. Many Kuwaitis believe that this moment is not far away, and they only blame those who adhere to the policy of dictates, demands, and orders. They realize that there are no firm policies in this volatile region. Many sharp hostilities have turned into intimate friendships.

An Arab politician reminds us of the state of no peace, no war in the years after the 1967 Zionist aggression on Egypt until the United States planned the reactivation war of 1973, which al-Sadat portrayed to the Arabs as the liberation war. Still, that war had reactivated the stalemated situation and made Tel Aviv understand that arrogance and the language of wars were not the safest way to preserve its false entity.

Who knows how the military move will begin since Baghdad is not a pawn on the U.S. chess board. Those who have inside information say that the internal situation is ripe for a terrible and bloody reactivation fighting. They wonder what would happen if matters went out of control in the coming reactivation massacre. Everyone would know then the significance of Baghdad, which they fought and tried to destroy.

Wisdom calls for a careful revision of matters, particularly by those who are familiar with regional affairs, Arab political life and its international implications, and future prospects so that they can remedy the disease before it becomes incurable. This is an opportune moment for everyone. Those concerned must know that the embargo is bound to be lifted sooner or later. But Baghdad does not want the region tense, nor does it want the fingers kept on the triggers. Because, the dangers threatening everyone in the Iraqi- Gulf house are enormous. It is shameful, indeed, that it is the partners in the European house who are moving to repair the Arab house and achieve Arab reconciliation. Let everyone remember the events that preceded August 1990 and understand that the loaf of bread was the cause and that Iraq did not use the diplomacy of threats, but of early warning, to which our brothers turned a deaf ear — hence the events that followed.

Here is the ball now once again in the court of Kuwait and its supporters, and there are several umpires on the court. Furthermore, here is the cable of the protective diplomatic squadron, in its Gulf and Arab formation, to Kuwait — people and government, present and future. We believe that it is appropriate to discuss the purport and reasons of this cable, without rejecting outright, although, as everyone knows, Baghdad will not and cannot be offered as a sacrifice, God forbid, for anyone whomsoever. Certainly, no one wants the situation to deteriorate into complex feuds. If the situation develops into a war, which is unacceptable to everyone, the whole region would turn into a ball of dynamite that could explode at any time. This would not be in harmony with the Kuwaiti people's wish for security and stability in the present and future. At the same time, it would not please the Iraqi people and leadership, and particularly our entire people in the Arabian Gulf.

Egyptians Sentenced Under Penal Code To Be Freed

JN2808145395 Baghdad INA in English 1240 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Aug 28, INA — President Saddam Husayn has ordered the immediate release of Egyptian prisoners in Iraq who are sentenced under item 446 of panel code, and para 31 of the same item. President Husayn also ordered a stop of all legal procedures being taken against Egyptian defendants charged with crimes included by the said item and para, and to release the detainees of such a kind. [sentence as received]

Another Group Pardoned

NC2808130895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1247 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 28 Aug (MENA)— Iraqi President Saddam Husayn today pardoned another group of Egyptians serving sentences in Iraqi jails and ordered their immediate release.

Rida Nasr 'Abd-al-Karim, head of the Egyptian Interests Section in Iraq, said the new pardon means that another large group of Egyptian prisoners will be released.

He told MENA's Baghdad correspondent that the Egyptian Interests Section will contact the concerned Iraqi departments in the next few hours to get the lists of names of prisoners to be freed. He said the Interests Section will announce the names as soon as it receives the lists.

Israeli Arabs Allowed To Participate in Nov Festival

JN2808121295 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
28 Aug 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — AL-RA'Y has learned that the Iraqi authorities have allowed some Palestinians residing in Palestinian territory occupied in 1948, and holding Israeli passports, to participate in the al-Mirbad festival, which will be held in Baghdad in November.

Sources close to the Iraqi information minister said the minister allowed the entry of Palestinian poet Samih al-Qasim, critic Muhammad 'Ali Taha, and the Nazareth folklore troupe members, all of whom hold Israeli passports. This is the first time the Iraqi authorities allow Israeli passport holders to enter Iraq.

In a related development, AL-RA'Y has learned that efforts are being made in Iraq to enable some Iraqi poets residing abroad to return home. Al-Mirbad festival is expected to conduct a critical analysis of the poems of 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Bayyati, currently residing in Jordan.

Defense Minister Meets ICRC Mission Director

JN2708193995 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1730 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA)—Fighter Staff General Sultan Hashim Ahmad, the defense minister, has urged the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] mission to double its efforts and work in the various international forums to take a decisive, serious, and effective stand on Iran's refusal to release Iraqi POW's. The defense minister made these statements during a meeting he had today with Michel Ducor [name as transliterated], director of the ICRC mission.

Michel Ducor stressed that his mission seeks to resolve the POW's question. He hailed the positive attitude of Iraq, which is cooperating to the largest possible extent with the mission's representatives to facilitate their tasks.

The conferees also discussed the prospects for cooperation between Iraq and the ICRC mission and the means to develop the mission's work and strengthen its role to help it shoulder its responsibilities toward humanitarian issues on the international arena.

Army Attack on Northern Villages Said Repulsed

NC2708170295 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Baghdad regime force this morning tried to occupy villages and loot citizens' property in the villages of Saydan, Ibrahim Agha, and (Nawshwan Road) in Karkuk. The masses there, along with the heroic peshmerga of Division 210 of the Karkuk army force and a heroic platoon from the Chamchamal stalwarts confronted the attackers and forced them to retreat after inflicting heavy casualties on them.

Government Forces Clash With Tribesmen in al-Barraj

NC2808165395 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to today's [28 August] issue of the newspaper KURDISTAN NWAY, a military force belonging to the Iraqi regime stormed the homes of citizens belonging to the Al- Shummar tribe in the (al-Barraj) area in Mosul Governorate. The regime forces were searching for stores of wheat hoarded by the citizens.

Following a sharp verbal exchange between the chief of the al- Shummar tribe and the army captain commanding the 'Aflaqite force, the commander's escort opened fire on the tribal chief. He was killed instantly.

During its subsequent withdrawal from the area, the government military force was ambushed by al-Shummar tribesmen who killed two officers and nine troops.

That evening, tribesmen from the al-Jarjari tribe joined their brothers from the al-Shummar tribe. Fierce fighting followed between the 'Aflaqite regime's forces and these two tribes. The outcome of the fighting is not yet known.

KDP Forces Reportedly Shell PUK Positions

NC2708165795 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to an urgent report from the Rawandoz area, the forces of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] on Sunday [27 August] afternoon shelled the forward positions of the heroic Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] peshmerga in (Hawshi Khandor) and (Kazi Zannih) using 120-mm mortars and DShK machine guns. The shelling continued for one hour.

Yesterday, KDP forces directed machine-gun fire at the villages of (Talawah), Tutmah, and (Khatih). UN vehicles and trucks were also fired on by KDP gunmen. A clash between two groups from the [name indistinct] tribe in (Arki Kalak) last evening killed one person and spread panic among the citizens. One of the two groups has been affiliated to the KDP.

KDP Arrests PKK Supporters, Continues Gunfire

NC2908165495 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper KURDISTAN NWAY issued reports today that the gunmen of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] launched a large-scale arrest campaign against civilians in the (Turan) area on charges of cooperating with the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK]. The arrested persons include supporters and members of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PKK].

Meanwhile, KDP gunmen have continued machine gun fire since yesterday against Tutmah, Talaw, and the main road. One peshmerga was wounded.

Ocalan on Reasons Behind Weekend Attacks

NC2908104095 Paris AFP in English 0807 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, Aug 29 (AFP)—Turkish Kurd separatist leader Abdullah Ocalan said Tuesday [29 August] his guerrillas attacked Iraqi Kurds at the weekend to draw the Turkish army into northern Iraq and sabotage a peace accord there.

Ocalan, the head of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), told the Saudi daily AL-HAYAH that his fighters "attacked important positions belonging to the Kurdistan Democratic Party," one of the two main groups in Kurdish-controlled northern Iraq.

"This action was aimed at encouraging the Turkish army to get bogged down in northern Iraq and wreck the Turkish-brokered accord signed between the KDP and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan on August 11," he said.

The KDP and the PUK signed an accord in Drogheda, Ireland, aimed at ending a bloody conflict over power and tax revenues which has cost 2,000 lives since it erupted in May, 1994.

Ocalan condemned as an "act of treason" an agreement between Iraqi Kurds and Ankara aimed at preventing PKK fighters from using northern Iraq as a launchpad for cross-border attacks in their fight for an independent Kurdish homeland in Turkey.

The KDP said Sunday that Turkish Kurd separatists attacked 20 of its positions near the border with Turkey, killing 12 people, with the aim of sinking the accord.

It is the first time an Iraqi Kurd group has accused the PKK of attacking its bases in northern Iraq, which has been under Kurdish control in defiance of Baghdad since the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf War.

The Iraqi National Congress, an umbrella opposition group, condemned the attacks which it said "threatens the implementation" of the Drogheda accord.

KDP Reinforces Near Turkish Border To Hinder PKK

NC2908122995 Paris AFP in English 1139 GMT 29 Aug 95

[Report by Ragip Duran]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Zakho, Iraq, Aug 29 (AFP)—An Iraqi Kurd group sent reinforcements to the border with Turkey on Tuesday [29 August] and moved to cut the supply routes of Turkish Kurd guerrillas after a wave of unprecedented PKK attacks in northern Iraq.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), one of the two main groups controlling northern Iraq, said 11 people were killed and more than 50 wounded in attacks by the Turkish Kurd separatist PKK group since the weekend.

It said it was sending extra fighters to strengthen positions along the mountainous 300-kilometre (185-mile) Iraq-Turkey border following another overnight attack in Zakho that left five people injured.

Fa'iq Nurwiyah of the KDP said the group was "taking measures" against the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) by trying to cut its supply and communications lines between Syria and northern Iraq as well as within the region itself.

'Abd-al-'Aziz Sa'id, governor of the border province of Dahuk, said PKK guerrillas had "killed 11 people, wounded more than 50 and kidnapped 24 (KDP) fighters" since Friday.

A KDP official in Zakho near the border, Abu-al-Wahid Suvayni, said Turkish Kurds carried out a wave of 26 attacks over the weekend. The attacks were "generally on civilian targets," although KDP positions were also hit.

Further attacks on Zakho overnight Monday-Tuesday hit civilians hardest, Nurwiyah said. He said PKK guerrillas also kidnapped a truck driver on the road between the towns of Zakho and Dahuk before releasing him.

A 10-year-old girl and a 60-year-old woman were among those taken to hospital with bullet wounds, an AFP correspondent reported.

Iraqi Kurd fighters pointed out houses hit by rockets as well as automatic rifles they said were seized from the PKK.

Witnesses said the attacks were carried by groups of 10-15 Turkish Kurd guerrillas coming down from their mountain bases near the border.

Among the targets were a Kurdish television station near Zakho, which is also used as a relay station by the United Nations. The transmitters were destroyed and a technician murdered, television officials said. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-'Aziz Rajab, head of KDP public relations in Zakho, said the PKK also wanted "revenge" on his party which cooperated with the Turkish army when it launched a huge incursion in northern Iraq in March. [passage omitted]

KDP, Islamists, Socialists Discuss Kurd Situation

JN2708205195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1830 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pirman summer resort—Within patriotic efforts and the exchange of views on finding a solution for the Kurdistan crisis and shedding light on the Dublin accord, our party leader, brother struggler Mas'ud Barzani, at 1400 today cordially received a joint high-level delegation of the two fraternal parties — the Islamic Movement in Iraqi Kurdistan and the Kurdistan Democratic Socialist Party. The guests were also received by Muhsin Bizzi, Jawhar Namiq Salim, Faransu Hariri, 'Abdallah 'Iqrin, and Nizam al-Din Gilli.

The guest delegation included: Malla 'Ali 'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy general guide of the Islamic Movement; Muhammad al-Hajj Mahmud, secretary general of the Kurdistan Democratic Socialist Party; Ahmad Kaka Mahmud; Malla 'Abd-al-Ghani; Mahmud Lashi; Kamil Hajj 'Ali; Sa'd Qadir al-Jabari; and Ramadan Bikuni.

Barzani held a frank discussion with the delegation on important issues and the future of Kurdistan. An analysis was made of the agreement on principles between the KDP [Kurdistan Democratic Party] and the (?PUK) [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan] with the aim of implementing the first phase of the agreement which stipulates halting media campaigns, stopping harassment of innocent people by both side, and releasing all detainees and prisoners to restore confidence between the two sides and pave the way for the upcoming meeting.

The conferees also discussed the dangers of the illegitimate attacks by the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] armed men on the political and administrative centers in the Dahuk and Irbil areas and the need to confront these attacks which are hindering the peace process. The aim is to serve the Kurdistan people, promote the Dublin agreement, establish peace, normalize the situation in Kurdistan, and establish legitimacy and the supremacy of the law.

Also discussed at the meeting were the latest events in Iraq and their impact on the Kurdistan future and strengthening brotherly relations among the three parties to realize the aspirations and aims of the Kurds, promote the Dublin agreement, and restore legitimacy and prosperity to Kurdistan.

It is noteworthy that viewpoints on most issues were close. The meeting lasted two hours.

Columnist Denounces U.S. Use of Wheat as 'Weapon'

JN2508183495 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 17 Aug 95 p 2

["Standpoint" column by Mu'ayyad 'Abd-al-Zahrah: "Wheat, a Weapon for Blackmail"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We must carefully and seriously ponder the recent warning cry by the Center of Political and Strategic Studies in Cairo regarding the dangers of depending too much on Washington for one's food basket and continuing to import U.S. wheat!

The center's field report clearly points out that the United States uses wheat as a food weapon. Wheat is sold to Egypt with the view to blackmailing the Egyptian regime so that it will pursue a subservient policy which serves U.S. interests in the region. No doubt, this accurate analysis and eye-opener sounds the alarm and exposes U.S. attempts at dominating the developing countries by exploiting their food needs and getting them out of one crisis and pushing them into another in order to hitch them up to U.S. policies and make them essentially serve U.S. interests.

In today's world, wheat is a strategic commodity which is of great concern to both producer and consumer countries. Using it as a bargaining chip in order to make certain gains, is a method and a weapon which Washington has used in many of its commercial dealings. If its use against the former Soviet Union, by making the supply of wheat dependent on Soviet endorsement of Jewish emigration, is a prominent example of these bargaining and blackmail operations and interferences in the internal affairs of other countries, its use against friendly countries does not differ much, considering the terms which are set for selling this food commodity.

It is obvious, therefore, that the United States is only concerned about its own interests. What it gives in the form of trade facilities, aid, and loans also falls under the category of interference and exploitation for the sake of its interests. It does not give anything for nothing. When the United States introduces itself through publicity, propaganda, attractions, facilities, and implementation of investment projects for the promotion of some sector or field, it does so in order to tighten its grip in a gradual and systematic manner with the view to sabotaging the economies of other countries and placing them within the circle of subservience and dependence on the United States.

This is what it has done in Egypt and other countries. Instead of seeing the Arab food security plan through as initially proposed by Egypt, Washington has encouraged a free market economy, competition, speculations, investments, and the growth of a consumer economy at the expense of the basic needs of the citizens and the proper program which developing countries should follow. Washington has done all that to keep Egypt within the circle and brink of need, thus enabling to impose its conditions in a very cheap and exposed blackmail operation.

Undoubtedly, the bad economic situation experienced by the Arab region, including Egypt, is essentially the result of the political wrangling and the introduction of a Western economic system which does not suit the development needs of the individual in our region. This is what Washington has been in an organized and systematic manner in order to keep its tight grip on the Arab homeland for more plundering and sabotage.

U.S. Wish To Host Ceremony 'Hard To Understand'

TA3008121195 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Aug 95 p B1

[Commentary by 'Aqiva Eldar: "There Are No Free Ceremonies"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — Of all the days in September mentioned for the Oslo B agreement signing ceremony between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the 13th is the least popular — and not because of superstition. The anniversary of the signing of the Oslo agreement is not a particularly impressive or outstanding landmark for a star-studded ceremony.

The White House would like to recruit King Husayn and President Mubarak for this spectacle of peace to counter its detractors in the Middle East; namely, it would like to stage a replay of the Madrid conference of October 1991, rather than a reunion of the class of September 1993 on the South Lawn. Some say the administration would like to get as far as possible from anything associated with Oslo. A supporter of the agreement asked me: What is the big deal about a belated signing of the interim phase of an agreement which has already been amply signed and celebrated?

Gid'on Levi wrote in this paper last week that this will be an opportunity to somehow warm up the icy negotiations with the Palestinians and noted that "an impressive ceremony in Washington would provide some encouragement to peace advocates in both nations." From this side of the ocean it is hard to tell how much encouragement another ceremony will provide to the Israelis and the Palestinians. The glass-clinking on the White House lawn will not disperse the demonstrators outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem or remove the doubts afflicting the advocates of Ehud Baraq's doctrine. A glittering ceremony in the Rose Garden will not improve the mood of unemployed laborers in Gaza and might even confirm Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] criticism about Yasir 'Arafat's insensitivity to the plight of his people. Bill Clinton's firm handshake will not dispel the dispute over Orient House or about control of the marketplace in Hebron.

The Americans say that God is in the details, but in this case it is the devil that has been working overtime since 13 September 1993. The gap between the expectations aroused by the peace celebrations on the one hand, the pain of the terrorist attacks and the tangible concessions on the other made the complicated negotiations even more so. Another ceremony detached from mundane worries might further increase the alienation of the leaders and their constituents. Staying in posh hotels in Washington did not affect the generosity of the donor countries in October 1993. A guided tour of Gaza's open sewers is recommended this time.

In an interview with CNN last Sunday, Foreign Ministry Director General Uri Savir said that Washington deserves to host the signing ceremony owing to the vital U.S. contribution to the agreement between Israel and the Palestinians. What contribution is he talking about? Savir himself was one of the initiators of the Oslo talks held behind the Americans' backs, after the Clinton Administration, just as its predecessors, joyfully joined the sterile negotiations between Israel and "the Palestinian delegation." The empty chair of the Syrian representative will be a reminder of Warren Christopher's failed wooing of Hafiz al-Asad and might even increase the Syrian president's isolation.

The White House is determined not to let anybody spoil its fun; the broadcast garden party will not be followed by a joint news conference by the President and his guests. Answers to embarrassing questions about 'Arafat's videotaped jihad remarks, human rights in the territories, and the amendment of the Palestinian Covenant will gleefully be provided by hundreds, and perhaps even thousands of Jewish (and Palestinian?) demonstrators on Pennsylvania Avenue who will steal Clinton's show and illustrate the split within his Jewish voters. Invitations to the spectacular ceremony will not erase the questions or the political interests of congressmen in the upcoming debate about aid to the Palestinians (remember the agony involved in writing off Jordan's debt after Rabin and King Husayn's joint appearance before Congress).

The surprise of September 1993 and the euphoria that accompanied the Oslo agreement will not recur. The Rabin government wrongly believed that "peace speaks for itself" and abandoned the U.S. arena to the Jewish and Israeli right wing, which will hand the guests arriving at the White House extensive quotes from President 'Ezer Weizman's remarks and 'Arafat's inflammatory speeches. Many guests have relatives in Qiryat Arba' and Ari'el, while others feed on the venomous propaganda about Rabin's tyranny. A senior Jewish activist told me about heavy pressure exerted by important donors and fellow worshipers in his synagogue not to attend the ceremony.

It is hard to understand the eagerness of the White House to host the signing ceremony. The U.S. public does not judge Clinton according to his foreign policy performance. In the best of cases, a Middle East photo-opportunity assures very short-term credit for the U.S. President. In the worst of case, if Hamas decided to get involved in the election campaign in the United

States on the eve of the ceremony, as its death agents tend to do in Israel, Clinton would end up with a big embarrassment on his hands.

Peres Meets Ross, Hopes To Meet With 'Arafat

TA2908163095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] U.S. envoy Dennis Ross met today in the Gaza Strip with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and later in Jerusalem with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. Ross says the date of the signing ceremony for the interim stage of self-rule agreement will be determined in the coming days. Peres says he and Chairman 'Arafat will probably meet at the beginning of next week to try to resolve the remaining difficult issues, including Hebron and the release of Palestinian prisoners. Ross and Peres spoke to reporter David Ze'ev after their meeting at Mishkenot Sha'ananim.

[Begin recording] [passage omitted] [Ze'ev] Foreign Minister Peres, what can you say about the talks with the Palestinians?

[Peres] I think that the two groups in Elat are working very seriously. There was a slight interruption because of the Jericho story, but we have there close to 200 experts from both sides. On the transfer of authority there is still much progress to be done. Today, they are dealing with the issue of energy. Our minister of energy is there, and we are trying to act as speedily as we can.

[Ze'ev] Still, will it take a top-level meeting to resolve the hardest issues, such as Hebron, the prisoner issue?

[Peres] Maybe. Probably it will be at the beginning of next week; it will be between Mr. 'Arafat and myself. [end recording] [passage omitted]

UN Told of Concern About End of Iraq Sanctions

TA3008051095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel's UN Ambassador Gad Ya'aqobi met last night with Rolf Ekeus, head of the UN Special Commission on Iraq, and conveyed Israel's concern about the possible removal of the sanctions on Iraq. The threat posed to the Middle East by the biological weapons amassed by Iraq since the Gulf War was apparently raised in the meeting.

Rabin: Hamas Using Right Wing To Achieve Goals

TA3008111595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A short time ago Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin addressed a group of professors, retired generals, and mayors; all members of the Council for Peace and Security who staged a rally of support outside his office in Jerusalem. Rabin told them that the peace process had already yielded positive economic results in Israel and that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] was using the Israeli right wing to promote its goals. Our correspondent Dani Zaqen reports:

[Begin recording] [Zaqen] Fifty members of the Council for Peace and Security, a body that supports the political process, staged a support rally today in the Emil Grinzweig Plaza opposite the Prime Minister's Office, in the same spot where until last night several right-wing leaders had staged a hunger strike to protest the government's policy. The supporters included an impressive roster: Twenty retired generals, such as Avraham Eden, Ran Goren, and 'Uzi Narqis; professors such as Ze'ev Sternhal and Ruti Gabizon; and former ambassadors and mayors.

The prime minister, who is used to anti-government protests, greeted the demonstrators in high spirits and thanked them.

[Rabin] The very fact that you are here today, at a time when certain elements are trying to take advantage of the atmosphere in order to cause a rift in the nation — which they will fail to do because the Israeli people believe in democracy and believe in the rule of the majority elected in a normal democratic process. Therefore, the very fact that you have come here really gives us the feeling — at least it does to me, and I am also sure to many others who are involved in this job — of encouragement and support.

[Zaqen] Rabin said that the political process had already yielded great economic benefits, and cited the drop in unemployment and the rise in the standard of living as an example.

As for the growing terror, he stressed that Hamas sees him and his policy as the main enemy, while the right wing's conduct actually helps Hamas.

[Rabin] They see me and the government — not the Israeli extreme right wing, against which they do not utter even one word — as the main enemies. They see them as a lever for the achievement of their goal. Hamas regards the reactions of extreme elements in Israel which call for stopping the peace process as a kind of tool for the accomplishment of their objective.

[Zaqen] Rabin's remarks were interrupted a few times by a right-wing demonstrator, but the policemen removed him from the site. Retired General Shlomo Lahat, chairman of the Council for Peace and Security, said that he had recently conferred with the foreign minister and the chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and

Defense Committee and that their explanations about security under the Oslo B agreement satisfied him.

[Lahat] In view of what we heard and learned, we wholeheartedly believe that the government is treading the right path on the issue of security. It is aware of the situation and has been going into the details.

[Zaqen] The sympathetic demonstrators added that their presence was also meant to counter the demonstrations of the right wing which had to date overtaken the street. [end recording]

IDF Said Opposed to Palestinian Police in Hebron

TA2908181595 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Aug 95

[Report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[FBIS Translated Text] As expected, the Hebron dilemma is being left for the end. The disagreements are not limited to the Israeli-Palestinian arena; there are some among the Israelis, too.

On the night of 9 August, a sharp argument was waged at the prime minister's bureau. Shim'on Peres had flown in for a few hours from Taba. The debate at Rabin's bureau lasted four hours and was almost entirely devoted to the issue of Hebron. We have learned that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] top brass, including the chief of staff, was vehemently opposed to Shim'on Peres' suggestion to station in a certain Hebron area several dozen armed Palestinian policemen who would operate and conduct patrols alongside IDF soldiers. At the peak of the heated argument, the prime minister ordered the military to leave the room. This is a political decision, he explained. The officers left, and the politicians endorsed Shim'on Peres' suggestion in principle.

Today we heard the view of Major General Ilan Biran, the Central Command chief, on the suggestion:

[Begin Biran recording] Hebron is an example of a very difficult place, in which we did not want and in which it is impossible, I believe, to permit a situation of two authorities working the same territory. [end recording]

Government Fears Right Wing May Attempt Assassinations

TA2908184095 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Members of the top political echelons are afraid that the escalating conflict between the extreme right wing and the government is liable to lead to attempts to assassinate central government figures. Appeals have been made recently to right-wing organizations both in and outside the Knesset to curb their antigovernment statements, in a bid to avoid creating an even more critical situation.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal addressed the issue today. Our correspondent Qeren Neubach heard the minister:

[Begin Shahal recording] There is no information about a definite organization. I hope the atmosphere will calm down, that we will not reach a situation in which some individual will commit an act of folly, dealing a blow to the entire governmental infrastructure and to the solidarity which, I think, we need. As one who is familiar with the political arena, I can only point to an escalation in the public argument, a crossing of lines that have never been crossed before. Nowadays, legitimate, parliamentary political figures show no restraint and no self-control, and that is the most worrisome aspect, because such people are usually a symbol. There may be people, God forbid, who will decide to translate these figures' statements into deeds. [end recording]

Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu refused to answer a question on whether the security forces had approached him on this issue. Netanyahu said he has always denounced the crude personal calls against the prime minister and the ministers.

Sne: Israeli-Azeri Ties Can Curb Fundamentalism

TA2908125495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Efrayim Sne says Israel has a strategic interest in developing ties with Azerbaijan, which is equally interested in such ties because they can help stem the onset of Islamic fundamentalism emanating from Iran.

In an interview with Qol Yisra'el, Sne refrained from commenting on the accusations voiced yesterday by Iran, alleging that Israel had been instrumental in reorganizing Azerbaijani security and intelligence systems.

Sne has made two visits to Azerbaijan recently. He asserted that his visits were devoted to promoting the medical ties between the two countries.

Council, Kahana Call For Violence-Free Debate

TA3008093995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza called on the public not to cross red lines and abstain from acts of violence in the ongoing public debate on the political-security issue. This has been reported by our settlement affairs correspondent Gil Litman.

Opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu also called for a violence-free debate, while Police Minister Moshe Shahal called on right-wing leaders not to engage in an onslaught which could lead to a deterioration of the situation in the country.

Binyamin Kahana, leader of the Kahana Hay movement, said that due to the situation created in the country he does not rule out the possibility that somebody might attempt to hurt state leaders. Interviewed by Qol Yisra'el, Kahana said he opposes such actions and is sure that none of his men would do such a thing.

Biran's Stand Said 'Liable To Torpedo' Accord

TA2908192495 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 29 Aug 95

[Report by Rina Matzliah and 'Imanu'el Rosen]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We have the first reaction of Major General Biran, the Central Command chief, to accusations and insinuations that he has joined the settlers' sharp criticism of the interim accord with the Palestinians.

There is growing tension between the peace negotiators and Gen. Biran behind the scenes of the political moves, a tension that reverberates in certain corridors, including the right-wing press. Here is a report by Rina Matzliah and 'Imanu'el Rosen:

[Begin recording] [Rosen, against the background of a videorecording of settlers verbally assaulting Gen. Biran] That was the harsh, even hostile reception the settlers gave the new Central Command chief when he took over his post. The situation has changed since. Biran and the settlers now walk hand-in-hand.

[Biran] It is laughable, even ridiculous to be described as a leftist one day and a rightist the next. I think we are doing the right thing.

[Rosen] Nevertheless, the Foreign Ministry and the senior officials who conduct the negotiations with the Palestinians see nothing funny in the matter. Ilan Biran, they say, has placed himself in opposition to the accords. One of these officials says: Biran has crossed a red line no military man may cross; his stance and his conduct are liable to torpedo the implementation of the agreement after it is signed.

Gen. Biran is furious at the remarks and the speakers. Several days ago he complained to the prime minister and the defense minister about the derogatory names the negotiators called him behind his back. Today, in a move uncustomary for an officer in service, Biran decided to respond to the attacks:

[Biran] First of all, it is pure libel. The terms them and us, which they have been using quite ridiculously and unwisely, is neither here nor there. I admit, there are disagreements among us. There is no unanimity; there is strife. For myself, I am in charge of security, and security is a very complex issue, each detail of which may affect the actual implementation. That is why we cannot give in, why we have to struggle. We will not let go; we will persevere; we will not be deflected by people who are steering things frivolously.

[Rosen] Even in these times of bitter confrontation with the settlers, Biran stays close to them. He is one of ours, they say. They see him as one representing their antiagreement stand. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Sarid Intervenes for Palestinians Visiting Gaza

TA2908152995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Yosi Sarid has intervened in the matter of the Palestinian summer visitors who have been encountering difficulties in returning home as a result of the Israeli position. Following his appeal, concrete steps will be taken to ease the visitors' return to Arab countries.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Yasir 'Arafat approached Minister Sarid for assistance after thousands of summer visitors to the Gaza Strip were unable to return home. As a result, dozens of buses carrying summer visitors left the Gaza Strip for the Allenby Bridge today — a much larger number than in recent days.

Police Receive Palestinian Appeal on Closures

TA2908145495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Commander Re'uven Levi, the police commissioner's adviser, has received a Palestinian appeal regarding the intention to shut down their offices. This was reported by our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky.

Police Minister Shahal says his ministry's legal advisers will review the material and advise him on the matter.

Authorities Release Fatah's Ahmad Ghunaym

TA2908130595 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 28 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem — The Israeli authorities yesterday released Ahmad Ghunaym, member of the Fatah Higher Committee, following a one-week detention.

Arab Arrested After Trying To Stab Policeman

TA3008093695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Jerusalem's Old City, near the house of Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon, an Arab youngster tried to stab a border policeman with a big knife, but it penetrated the policeman's flak jacket.

The policeman and his colleagues overpowered and arrested the assailant, who turned out to be a resident of the village of Qatannah in the Ramallah area. The policeman was lightly bruised in the hand.

This was reported by our correspondent Aviv Bushinsky.

Hunger Strike Ends With Anti-Government Rally

TA3008083495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 30 Aug 95 p 2

[Report by Herb Keinon]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] A crowd estimated at between 1,500 and 2,500 took part in an anti-government rally at Jerusalem's Wohl Rose Garden last night, marking the end of a 40-person hunger strike during the week-long mourning period for victims of the Jerusalem bomb blast.

Likud MK [Knesset member] Ari'el Sharon, greeted with a loud ovation and chants of "Arik, Arik" told the crowd that rather than requesting wanted Hamas members believed to be in Jericho, "We need to go in there and finish them off, as well as the terror infrastructure."

Sharon said it makes no sense for Israel to request the extradition from the US of Hamas leaders Musa Abu-Marzuq, "while here in Jericho and Gaza, wanted murderers are roaming free."

Referring to yesterday's incident near the entrance to Jericho — where some 200 Palestinians rioted against the closure clamped on the city, chased three border policemen from their post, and burned its Israeli flag — Sharon said that had he been in charge, he would have given the soldiers an order to "shoot to wound."

Hundreds of policemen and border policemen formed a human wall around the Prime Minister's Office across the street from the demonstration. A water cannon was brought to the scene, as were police on horseback. The police, who have come under a great deal of criticism for not wearing identification tags at right-wing demonstrations, had their names hand-written on tags they wore on their shoulders.

Sharon both started and ended the demonstration with appeals to the crowd not to get into any confrontations with the police. He complained, however, that despite an agreement demonstrators had with police, it did not allow cars into the government compound, forcing people to walk long distances to the demonstration. Midway through the protest, the police spokesman said, cars were allowed into the compound.

Although there were no physical confrontations between police and demonstrators, the allegedly brutal behavior of police at previous demonstrations was the subject of many of the speeches. [passage omitted]

Nearly a dozen people spoke at the two-hour rally and before the speeches all 40 hunger strikers were introduced to the crowd. The loudest ovations were reserved for former Tehiya MK Ge'ula Kohen, Efrat's Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Moledet MK Rehav'am Ze'evi and Sharon.

Sources Confirm Tighter Security on Iraqi Border

MM3008132395 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
29 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Salam Na'mat: "Tightened Security Measures on Border With Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman — Official Jordanian sources confirmed yesterday the tightening of security measures on the Jordanian border with Iraq, in anticipation of any possible security infiltrations after the announcement of Jordan's position supporting the toppling of the Iraqi regime.

Eight U.S. warships sailed into the Gulf region yesterday carrying military equipment on the eve of the joint exercises scheduled for tomorrow with Kuwaiti forces. Meanwhile President Saddam Husayn described the accusation that Iraq intended to invade Kuwait and Jordan and attack Saudi Arabia as a "false pretext" to justify the deployment of U.S. warships in the Gulf.

The Jordanian sources told AL-HAYAH that "tightened security measures at all levels" have been imposed, especially at the crossing point on the Jordanian-Iraqi border, including tightened searches of people arriving from Iraq. The sources added that these measures have caused delays, of up to 10 hours in some cases, for travelers to Jordan. They said that the trip, which would normally take between 10 and 12 hours, now takes 20-22 hours after the recent measures have been applied.

As is known, King Husayn strongly criticized the Iraqi regime in a speech delivered last Wednesday, in which he announced his support for the Iraqi president's son-in-law, Staff General Husayn Kamil, who defected to Jordan on 8 August and who announced his intention to topple the regime in Baghdad. [passage omitted]

Officials 'To Contain' Impact of King's Speech

JN2908170895 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
28 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-MAJD has learned that Crown Prince Hasan and Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd have begun to work together, perhaps for the first time, to contain the severe internal and external repercussions following the royal speech which was broadcast Wednesday [23 August] evening and which caused an almost official quake and popular astonishment.

The royal speech also prompted the Iraqi Government to submit a complaint to the Arab League against Jordanian interference in Iraq's internal affairs. AL-MAJD has also learned that the Iraqi complaint will be discussed in the Arab foreign ministers meeting on 20 September.

The crown prince and al-Sharif Zayd, along with the majority of the cabinet and the security departments, supported keeping the Jordanian-Iraqi borders open and continuing to import Iraqi oil. This is contrary to U.S. wishes and U.S. pressure on Jordan, which intensified recently, to boycott Iraq and halt its economic dealings with it in return for vague U.S. promises which lack credibility.

Moreover, AL-MAJD has learned that the views of the crown prince and al-Sharif Zayd were identical on assessing the political significance of defector Husayn Kamil and his very limited impact on the Iraqi situation. During his trip abroad, Prince Hasan acquainted himself with the feeble international wager on Husayn Kamil. Al-Sharif Zayd discussed the dimensions of the internal Jordanian situation which is suffering from a sharp political and economic setback due to the current confusion regarding Jordan's relationship with Iraq.

Hence the crown prince's views, derived from external surroundings, have converged with al-Sharif's views, which stem from the internal arena, thus prompting both to work calmly and gradually to return to normal the Jordanian relationship, particularly its economic aspect, with Iraq.

Due to the fact that the royal speech drew adverse reactions from Egypt, Syria, Libya, and Iraq and that it was not greatly welcomed by the Gulf states—and perhaps it met with much reservations—the joint containment policy of the crown prince and al-Sharif can succeed gradually without drawing genuine objection by his majesty the king. [passage omitted]

Al-Kabariti Interviewed on Iraq Events

NC3008054495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1940 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 29 Aug (MENA)—Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti has asserted that Egyptian-Jordanian contacts will continue and that coordination will strengthen. He said: This is a strategic option that we have chosen for ourselves. We will not, under any circumstances, accept that Egypt be left out in the cold.

In an interview to be published in the 30 August issue of AL-AHRAM, al—Kabariti said: On numerous occasions Jordan has recognized Egypt's leading and pioneering role vested in it by its size, history, and culture. He expressed the hope that the depth and scope of the relationship and the sincere approach of the two leaders can circumvent any tension and sensitivity, which he said are indicators of healthy relations and are things that could arise in an emergency. What is important are the strategic relations that must link Egypt and Jordan, with a long-term and comprehensive outlook.

Al-Kabariti said no decision has yet been made that could be described as giving political asylum to General Husayn Kamil Hasan al-Majid after his escape from Baghdad to Amman. He indicated that al-Majid was given "Hashemite" protection and care in Jordan.

Al-Kabariti said that what Gen. Husayn Kamil is saying about Iraq, such as the need for change and the planning of a coup, expresses Kamil's personal views; his remarks are not binding on any other party. He said: It is true that these stances have been expressed on Jordanian territory but we are not involved in any plan to change the regime in Iraq right now.

On developments in the region, al-Kabariti said: What is happening in Iraq and what concerns us goes beyond the defection of an important personality from Iraq; it includes bigger and more serious dimensions.

Al-Kabariti admitted there has been a change in Jordan's public stance. He described it as a change in style, not in the official stance. He said his country practices preventive diplomacy [diblumasiyah wiqa'iyah] and adopts communication, quiet dialogue, and sometimes secrecy. He noted that official relations between Iraq and Jordan have been affected by the recent developments but trade relations have been normal so far.

Minister Fears Division of Iraq Into Small States

JN3008083195 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic
30 Aug 95 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordan has once again warned the Iraqi leadership against the consequences of going too far in keeping the current situation unchanged. Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al- Kabariti said that Jordan now mainly fears the creation of conditions that would lead to dividing Iraqi territory and forming various small states in the north and south.

Speaking to AL-BILAD, al-Kabariti said: "Jordan has been directly engaged in preserving Iraq's territorial integrity." Asked about the U-turn in the Jordanian position on Iraq following the latest speech by His Majesty King Husayn, the foreign minister answered: Our position on Iraq has been and will continue to be an unwavering one. We have maintained the same position for the past five years. We are with the Iraqi people and support their right to lead a decent life and to have the economic embargo lifted.

Al-Kabariti added: It is absolutely unjustifiable to talk about a sudden U-turn in the Jordanian position and about a new political trend on Iraq. Al-Kabariti explained: Our policy on Iraq has not changed for the past five years. The point is that we decided to be clearer this time and to express our ideas to the Iraqis frankly. His majesty the king also decided to address them as well as the Arab nation frankly.

Al-Kabariti stressed that the latest royal speech made Jordan's previous steady positions clearer. The foreign minister disclosed that the Egyptian leadership dispatched Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to become acquainted with Jordan's position on the recent developments and to inquire about what happened in Jordan.

Al-Kabariti went on to say: "We told the Egyptian brethren about what happened and clarified our vision vis-a-vis the recent developments."

In another development, a senior official, who was talking to AL- BILAD, connected certain Iraqi opposition circles with reports by some parties on the Iraqis' nostalgia for the Hashemite reign. The official said that His Majesty King Husayn meant to respond to these circles — which were floating such reports prompted by their narrow interests and affiliation with certain countries that influence their decisions — when he talked about the Hashemites' role in Iraq. His majesty the king had emphasized the Hashemites' historic desire to preserve the unity of Iraq's territory and fraternal people.

The government official described these reports as a mere myth fabricated by certain Iraqi opposition figures.

Minister To Visit Iraq To Discuss Oil Pipeline

JN3008085095 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
30 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman — AL-RA'Y — Samih Darwazah, minister of energy and mineral resources, has said that he will visit Iraq at the head of a Jordanian delegation within the next few days for talks with Iraqi officials. He added that the meetings will focus on the implementation of an oil pipeline project. The pipeline will extend from Iraq to Jordan. He noted that this pipeline is one of the most important Jordanian-Iraqi oil projects.

Press Reacts to Egyptian Writer's Attack on King

JN2908192995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Three Jordanian Arabic dailies published, in their 29 August issues, articles and editorials reacting to "a long article" written by Egyptian journalist Mahfuz al-Ansari, chief editor of the Egyptian newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH, in which he attacks Jordan and its leadership.

AL-RA'Y's front-page editorial reviews King Husayn's address to the nation on 23 August and adds, noting that "Jordan is very concerned not to replace the Arab-Israeli conflict with an Arab-Arab conflict, because such a replacement will certainly make the Arab nation lose the battle of peace just as its divisions and fragmentation were the main cause for losing war."

AL-RA'Y's editorial adds: "Regrettably, in fact painfully, we notice today that some Arab capitals are still reading the Jordanian pan-Arab stand, with dark glasses, through the same policy of pivots, or through false comparison between their geographic and demographic size and Jordan, ignoring that a huge palace of mud, regardless of its weight, cannot crush a very tiny genuine diamond. It is really painful to see people trying to repeat the old mistakes which produced sins against the nation and to champion their countries' interests over pan-Arab interests, or champion secondary issues over major ones."

Also, AL-RA'Y Chief Editor Mahmud al-Kayid writes a 500-word article on page 1 under the headline, "The Hallucination of an Egyptian Journalist," in which he says: "We will not discuss the details of the article, neither will we respond to his accusations and falsehood which he covers with apologies sometimes and with requests for forgiveness other times. However, we will ask with all seriousness and sincerity, which does not exist in his entire article: Why is he returning to this rejected lambasting at these circumstances in particular and at this time in which certain journalists, like Mahfuz al-Ansari, must disappear." After reviewing Jordan's pan-Arab policies, al-Kayid says: "We will not do as al-Ansari did. Our press has not resorted to such vituperations and slandering and we do not want to dig into the past. If we do this, the chief editor of AL-JUMHURIYAH will not be far from the ones who used to hang around many gates and fields to make a living."

AL-RA'Y's well-known columnist Tariq Masarwah writes a 600-word article in his "Every Day" column under the headline: "The Search for a Role and the President's Complex," in which he says: "We are not surprised, at all, at this attack launched by AL-AHRAM, AL- JUMHURIYAH, and the rest of the Egyptian national press against his majesty the king. The attacks were launched upon orders issued from the highest levels." The writer adds that the attack came following the visit to Jordan by the Egyptian foreign minister because "President Mubarak was waiting for information through which he will join a conspiracy and assume a role which is in harmony with the size and weight of his regime."

After reviewing President Mubarak's Arab stands and policies, as well as his "rancor" and "anger" at Jordan, the Palestinians, Sudan, the Saudis, and Kuwaitis, Tariq Masarwah says: "The president mixes the weight and size of his fragile political system with the size of Egypt in its nation." Concluding his article, Masarwah says: "King Husayn does not harbor any grudge against his nation, nor does he harbor any revenge. The one who harbors grudge is the one who instructs his scurrilous writers to throw their rotten vomit on the pages of AL-AHRAM and AL-JUMHURIYAH. The small one will remain so despite all attempts to look tall."

Amman AL-ASWAQ publishes a 500-word editorial on page 19 under the headline "Stands Give Countries Their Size" in which the paper reacts to the accusations leveled against Jordan and its pan-Arab, regional, and international role. After reviewing Jordan's pan-Arab stands which aimed at safeguarding the Arab nation, AL-ASWAQ editorial says: "Now that Jordan has begun to overcome isolation, siege, and others' ingratitude and to continue its shouldering of its responsibilities toward the pan-Arab issues" on the background of international and regional recognition of the importance of its role "all distortion attempts to twist facts regarding its concern about the five-year ordeal of the Iraqi people cannot prevent Jordan from continuing its role and from responding to the pan-Arab call." Concluding its editorial, AL-ASWAQ says that "those who failed to play their pan-Arab roles, which are in harmony with their size and which are dictated by their responsibilities, need to replay old records to cover up for the faults and gaps in their stands and roles which are carried out by Jordan in the best way, thereby honoring its principles and commitments inherited from its ancestors who declared a new dawn for the nation through their Great Arab Revolt."

AL-DUSTUR columnist Muhammad al-Subayhi writes a 1,200-word article in the "Viewpoint" column, in which he recalls the role of the press and writers throughout modern history in adding fuel to Arab differences and in turning media into "a cheap commodity." Reacting to al-Ansari's article, AL-DUSTUR columnist says that al- Ansari "wants to say that the Hashemites want to take revenge on the Arab nation, that Jordan is now taking revenge on Iraq for overthrowing King Faysal II, and that Jordan pushed Iraq to wage war against Iran and to occupy Kuwait." Al-Subayhi then goes on to give examples of the role of the Egyptian press in undermining Egypt's relations with Morocco, Libya, and Saudi Arabia and in creating political crises between Arab countries. Concluding his article, al-Subayhi says: "What is the interest of al-Ansari in creating sedition between Jordan and Egypt, and between Jordan and Saudi Arabia?" He then adds: "Finally, I would like to say to AL- JUMHURIYAH Chief Editor al-Ansari that neither Jordan nor King Husayn needs your testimony, that he is a daring man and talented king and ruler. Suffice it to ask any leader in the world not only about the personality of his majesty the king, but also about the credibility of Jordan and its leadership so that you will explode from anger."

Opposition Parties Denounce Maneuvers With U.S.

JN2908165595 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
28 Aug 95 p 1

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Representatives of the 11 opposition parties and a number of independent nationalist personalities taking part in the work of the "committee preparing for the conference on resisting normalization [with Israel]" reviewed in their meeting on 24 August all political developments on the Jordanian arena, starting with the recent royal speech and ending with the joint Jordanian-U.S. military exercises.

The conferees had lengthy debates on the royal speech, but they decided to read it more carefully before commenting on it in their meeting on Thursday [31 August].

They also discussed the current dangers the Arabs are facing, especially the attempt to divide Iraq and change its regime from outside in preparation for concluding a peace treaty between Iraq and the Israeli enemy, something which would weaken the Syrian position and support Israeli attempts to contain it.

The conferees denounced the joint military exercises with the United States. They expressed concern over the economic situation in Jordan as a result of growing U.S. pressures which aim to aggravate Jordan's relations with its neighbors and close its border with Iraq.

The conferees noticed an evident change in Jordanian principles. They also denounced Yasir 'Arafat's abnormal statements on his readiness to cut off the hands of mujahidin not in Palestine only, but also in Iran.

Meanwhile, the opposition parties issued a statement on the Jordanian-U.S. military exercises and the accompanying events and developments.

The statement says that the United States has made a plan for rearranging the Arab region, and that the timing of the Jordanian- U.S. military exercises, which coincide with the defection of General Husayn Kamil to Jordan and the heightened media campaign from Jordan against the Iraqi rule, are part of the U.S. plan to rearrange the situation in the region.

The statement expects important and serious events in the Arab region, noting that Iraq and other Arab states are targeted by the United States.

The statement calls for removing the U.S. troops, the strategic ally of the Zionist troops, from Jordanian territory.

King Leaves for Oman on Two-Day Visit

JN2908120395 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur left Amman for Oman in God's care this morning on a two-day visit to the Sultanate. His majesty will hold talks with his brother Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id within the framework of consultations on various issues related to the excellent bilateral fraternal relations and developments in the Arab, regional, and international arenas. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath as regent for the king during his absence from the homeland, in the presence the king and cabinet members.

Princes 'Ali, Hamzah, and Hashim, King Husayn's sons, accompanied him. Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir and Marwan al-Qasim, royal Hashemite court chief, also accompanied the king.

Sends Cable to King Fahd en Route

JN2908163795 Amman Radio Jordan Network
in Arabic 1500 GMT 29 Aug 95

[Cable from King Husayn to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia while King Husayn was crossing Saudi airspace en route to Oman on 29 August—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate, Your Majesty King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, king of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect you. May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

While crossing the airspace of your fraternal country, it gives me pleasure to send to my dear brother, Your Majesty, my best greetings and sincerest wishes of good health, happiness, and success in leading your country and people who are continuing their good march on the path of progress, prosperity, and pride.

I pray to God Almighty to safeguard you and the dear Saudi royal family and to guide our steps on the path of good to serve our two sisterly countries and the causes of our Arab and Islamic nation.

May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother, Husayn

Hizballah Source Condemns Rumors of Cyprus Attacks

NC3008064595 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has stressed that it will retaliate for any Zionist attack on civilians in the liberated areas. This stance was spelled out by a Hizballah official source in reply to remarks made by the U.S. charge d'affaires in Beirut concerning developments in the south and also in reply to reports about threats against Western and Arab targets in Cyprus.

The official source said: Propagating rumors and fabricating reports insinuating that Hizballah is planning to strike at Western and Arab targets and interests in Cyprus—although no accusations have been leveled against Hizballah—are part of a plot to create an atmosphere that prepares the world to accept any Zionist aggression against south Lebanese areas on the pretext of fighting what it calls terrorism.

The Hizballah official source added: Although such information is fabricated and has no basis of truth, it falls within the context of the campaign of instigation against Hizballah, which clings to the option of Resistance against the Zionists, who are usurping the land and playing havoc with security. Diplomatic and political circles have consistently created such an atmosphere from time to time, particularly when there are planned schemes.

The source said such an instigatory atmosphere coincides with statements made by the U.S. charge d'affaires in Beirut, Ron Schlicher, who said he considered the escalating Zionist attacks something normal. Such statements are meant to give the green light to the Zionist enemy to continue its terrorist practices. The last of these practices were overflights and the continuing bombardment of particular areas and villages. This prompts us to believe that the Zionist enemy, in coordination and collaboration with the Americans, is pursuing a policy of escalating things for the sake of internal political objectives as part of the Zionist attacks on our kin.

The Hizballah source said: Under the circumstances we would like to state that we in Hizballah will spare no effort and energy to defend our kin and land with all the means and methods available. He also stressed that all the enemy's threats will have no influence, because the equation is clear and crucial, namely, every aggression will be met with the appropriate reply and every attack on civilians will be met by a painful reply.

Al-Asad, al-Shar' Receive Visiting U.S. Senators

JN2908123395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received U.S. Senators Arlen Specter and Hank Brown at the People's Palace at 1300 today. Christopher Ross, U.S. ambassador in Damascus, was present.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' also received the U.S. Congressional delegation headed by Senator Arlen Specter, with U.S. Ambassador Christopher Ross attended. Talks focused on developments in the region and the peace process, as well as relations between Syria and the United States.

Paper Sees 'Disappointment' With New World Order

JN2908201095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Aug 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper TISHRIN comments on the new world order, saying: The plan to create a new Middle East order authored by Israel to plunder Arab resources has not received the required acceptance and support. It is an attempt to force capitulation on the Arabs in the name of peace. This attempt has run into a firm Syrian stand, which has laid bare Israel's aggressive intentions and its unwillingness to achieve just and comprehensive peace.

TISHRIN adds: Damascus' steadfastness, stability, and adherence to pan-Arab constants has fostered trust and confidence in the Arab masses. The world has realized that it is now less stable and secure and more prone to violence than it was before thanks to the creation of a new world order, whose beginnings have only brought chaos, misery, and wars.

TISHRIN goes on to say: The disappointment with the consequences of this order has been greater in the Arab homeland, where sweet promises have been made about peace, progress, and development. Nonetheless, the outcome has been more conflicts, seditions, a systematic theft of resources, and attempts to recolonize the Arab homeland in various forms and shapes and impose Zionist domination.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: An order whose beginnings were not well received by world peoples cannot be consummated. It will lose its raisin d'etre if it does not bring justice, security, prosperity, and true peace to all.

World Changes Criticized; End to 'Occupation' Urged

JN2908203195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 29 Aug 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: After the former Soviet Union collapsed, major developments occurred in the East European countries, and one pole spread its hegemony over world politics, the world witnessed a series of changes and new hotbeds of dispute and tension surfaced and led to bloody wars and large-scale acts of displacement, like the ones which are now taking place in the former Yugoslavia and the Republic of Chechnya.

Instead of bringing about a stable new world order based on justice, fairness, and equitability, chaos swept many parts of the world, principles failed, and politics conflicted with human norms and laws. Even the United Nations made many mistakes, violated its charter, and used different standards. As a result, the Middle East was harmed, particularly when many parties raced to conclude unfair accords with Israel, relinquished pan-Arab principles, and encroached on the agreed upon principles of just peace.

These developments severely damaged the rights of the Palestinian people and the overall Arab cause and also harmed the cause of peace itself. Israel has entrenched its occupation of the Arab territories, including Jerusalem, in the name of the alleged peace; the pro-Israel international forces used their huge media machine to distort facts and realities; occupation and oppression suddenly turned into peace; and national resistance turned into terrorism.

In light of this major loophole in standards, Syria showed eagerness to respect international laws and the principles of the peace process and to protect itself, its policies, and its principles, as it has been an old, but new target for those who have ambitions in the Arabs' land and wealth. These sides see Syria as a surmountable obstacle that is preventing the collapse of the Arab homeland.

Syria adheres to pan-Arab principles and continues its move on all levels. It is extending a helping hand to fraternal Lebanon, exposing the defects of the accords concluded with Israel, and announcing to the whole world that it will never deviate from the goal of just and comprehensive peace in the region or relinquish any inch of land or any of its rights. Syria has firmly rejected any oneupmanship or relinquishment and it is strongly defending the concept of just and comprehensive peace, which should lead to a total removal of Israel's occupation, to recognizing the Arab rights, and to safeguarding pan-Arab dignity.

Syria, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, has not only safeguarded itself, its policies, its principles, and its positions, but also made everybody in the Arab and international arenas respect it. The Arabs are looking forward to Syria as a safe haven and a source of hope amid the collapsing regimes. States and governments also view Syria as a country, which is leading the message of just and firm peace based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principles and charters of the United Nations.

Syria would not have played such a major role in the Arab and international arenas while defending the Arabs' rights and dignity, were it not for a series of factors, namely, the wise and courageous leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad, the rallying of the masses of the people and the Arab nation around this leadership, and the joint belief that the glories and potential of the Arab nation will not allow it to be humiliated or to beg. This is because Syria has given the world a genuine culture and is also struggling for the sake of a just cause.

Paper Comments on Israeli Attacks on Lebanon

JN2908201495 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Aug 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the Israeli motives for continuing its daily attacks on steadfast southern Lebanon, saying: These attacks are a dangerous provocation that could push the region toward further aggravation and a conflagration and deal a fatal blow to the stumbling and stalemated peace process, which needs a firmer and more serious effort to salvage it from the specter of failure and total collapse.

The paper adds: Israel is engaged in acts of killing, destruction, and terrorism in a bid to pressure Lebanon to disengage from Syria and halt national resistance operations in southern Lebanon. However, the resistance will continue as long as the occupation is maintained. Moreover, this resistance cannot be halted unless the occupation is terminated, the territories are liberated, and rights are restored to their owners.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: If Israel is seeking regional security and stability, the way to achieve this is clear and well known. This objective is achievable if Israel halts the policy of military might and aggression, subscribes to the relevant international legitimacy resolutions, and abandons the tactics based on applying pressures and using blackmail and prevarication. Israel has not thus far demonstrated any clear willingness to meet the objective requirements of peace.

The paper concludes by saying: Israel must realize that Syria and Lebanon will not succumb to pressure and blackmail, and that they, under no circumstances, will accept anything short of just and honorable peace that would return all territories and rights. They will not abandon a single inch of the Golan or southern Lebanese territory.

AL-BA'TH Views Importance of Arab Solidarity

JN2908202295 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Aug 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] The newspaper AL-BA'TH addresses the importance of Arab solidarity in confronting Israeli schemes, saying: Despite the gloomy and deteriorating Arab state of affairs, great hopes are pinned on Syria, which has borne the brunt in the effort to protect the nation from all the dangers posed to it in the course of the fateful challenges threatening the Arab future.

The paper adds: The position of Syria under al-Asad, which champions national and pan-Arab rights, will continue to inspire the trust of the nation's children regardless of the string of declines that began in Oslo and did not end in Wadi al-'Arabah.

The paper believes that the current deterioration in the Arab state of affairs will not last forever. Israel's efforts to force its control of the region through perpetuating this state of affairs will come to naught, given the nation's will and its aspirations for a bright future. The paper asserts that Syria has won the world's respect and appreciation and enlisted the support of the world community for the sound and credible Syrian policy, which is committed to a just and comprehensive peace grounded in complete Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders. The paper urges the Arabs to wake up and show solidarity to face all Israeli ambitions.

AL-BA'TH adds: Comrade struggler Hafiz al-Asad, the nation's leader, has devoted all his efforts to fortifying the Arab nation against dangers. These persistent efforts epitomize the Arabs' pride and dignity.

Loan Agreements Signed With Arab Economic Fund

JN2908204395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received 'Abd-al-Latif al-Hamad, director general of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, at 1400 today. Attending the meeting were Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs, and Dr. Mustafa al-Hajj 'Ali, Syria's ambassador in Kuwait.

The meeting dealt with the activities of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development in Syria and the development projects the fund will finance.

Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs, received 'Abd-al-Latif al-Hamad, director general of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, at 1330 today. Attending the meeting were Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs, and Dr. Mustafa al-Hajj 'Ali, Syria's ambassador in Kuwait.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed progress of work at the projects which are financed by the fund. Al-Hamad expressed satisfaction with the progress of work at these projects. They also discussed projects the fund will finance, particularly in the areas of agriculture and electricity.

Syria and the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development today signed two 32.5 million Kuwaiti dinar [KD] loan agreements to contribute to financing the Syrian part of the power linkage project between Syria and Jordan, and an agricultural development program in Aleppo. The loan for the power linkage project totals KD30 million, and the agricultural development loan totals KD2.5 million. [passage omitted]

Bangladesh

Spokesman Reviews Dhaka's Stand on Bosnian Issue

BK2908134595 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] More countries have expressed their support for the initiative taken by the prime minister of Bangladesh for calling an emergency summit meeting of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] to discuss the Bosnian issue. These countries include Iran, Bahrain, and Qatar. This was stated by a spokesman of the Foreign Ministry at a press briefing held in Dhaka today. He said, in fact, almost all countries have expressed their support to this call but only an official statement is being awaited in this regard. He further said that no quarter, including the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, have raised any objection to it. The main objective of the initiative taken by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is to further consolidate Islamic solidarity and to take a united stand on the Bosnian crisis.

He said that foreign ministers and defense ministers of the OIC Contact Group and also the ministers of some other countries which have sent troops to Bosnia will hold a meeting in the Malaysian capital on the 14th and 15th of next month to discuss various aspects of the Bosnian crisis, as well as the initiative taken by Bangladesh for holding an emergency summit meeting. Prior to this, a two-day long meeting of senior officials and chiefs of the armed forces of these countries will also be held. In reply to a question, he said the role and the stand taken by Bangladesh on the Bosnian issue has earned high appreciation of all countries, including the Islamic world.

Referring to the recently concluded second session of the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] standing committee held in New Delhi, he said the foreign secretaries of the member countries held detailed discussions on the programs and other matters relating to the technical committees. They reviewed the activities of 12 technical committees. It was also considered whether it is possible to form a new committee by merging several committees. They also held detailed discussions on the SAARC Secretariat and the role of the SAARC secretary general, and agreed that the secretariat should be further strengthened and the dignity and importance of the activities of the secretary general should be further increased and expanded. Talks were also held on giving SAARC youth awards in three sectors including rural development, new discoveries, and creative arts.

He described the recently concluded visit of President Alpha Oumar Konare to Bangladesh as very successful. During the summit meeting held between the visiting president and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh, they agreed to strengthen practical and work-oriented cooperation between Dhaka and Bamako. The two sides also expressed the desire to build up close cooperation in all international forums, including the Nonaligned Movement and the UN. During his stay in Bangladesh, the president of Mali expressed keen interest regarding the democratic process in Bangladesh and the Grameen [rural] Bank. The two countries have identified education, agriculture, jute, fertilizer, and fruit processing sectors for immediate cooperation. Later, more spheres for cooperation will be identified.

Probe Into Deaths of Nationals in Malaysia Requested

BK2808035095 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0200 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bangladesh High Commission to Malaysia has been asked to investigate into the reported deaths of 28 Bangladeshis in a detention camp there. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Dhaka yesterday that the directive was given following publication of a news item on the matter.

India

Al-Faran Said in Contact With Hostage Negotiators

BK3008071895 Hong Kong AFP in English 0631 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 30 (AFP) — Moslem guerillas holding four Westerners for nearly two months were in contact with Indian negotiators in Kashmir overnight, bringing fresh hopes of a settlement, officials said Wednesday [30 August].

Kashmir authorities, meanwhile, denied news reports that commandos from the United States and Britain were in Kashmir to try and rescue the four tourists abducted between July 4 and July 8 near the trekking resort of Pahalgam.

Sources said the Al-Faran separatist abductors radioed Indian negotiators late Tuesday night and answered in-depth questions about the captives.

The hostage-takers were asked to describe the backgrounds of the two Britons, an American and a German, a source said, adding that the replies were accurate enough to satisfy negotiators that the four were still alive.

The midnight radio call came a day after the government talked with American Donald Hutchings in the first direct contact with the hostages during ongoing negotiations aimed at freeing the four.

Al-Faran has claimed responsibility for seizing Britons Paul Wells, 23, and Keith Mangan, 33, German Dirk Hasert, 26 and the 42-year-old Hutchings. It wants New Delhi to free 15 jailed comrades in a swap for the hostages.

The previously-unknown group has also accepted responsibility for the murder of their fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans-Christian Ostro, 27, in the first week of August.

Police here say Ostro was probably killed while trying to flee his captors. It said some jottings in Norwegian, found on his body, indicated a plan to flee.

Kashmir government officials said the two rounds of contact since Monday was a signal for a possible settlement to the crisis.

"This has brought things one step closer to a possible peaceful solution," one source said of the Tuesday night radio call by the Al-Faran.

Indian authorities, meanwhile, said there were no Western commandos in Kashmir.

"There are no commandos," an official spokesman said on Tuesday. "No operation is going on to rescue the four Westerners."

The Hindustan Times and other newspapers have said crack commandos from Britain's Special Air Services soldiers and the US army's counter-terrorist unit Delta Force were conducting surveillance operations in Kashmir over the past 10 days.

London had said on August 17 that it had sent trained hostage negotiators to New Delhi to help secure the release of the hostages.

Highly-placed military sources in the defence ministry in New Delhi said Wednesday they would "neither confirm nor deny the reports since lives of the hostages were at stake."

Informed sources said the government was ready for a one-to-one exchange but the Al-Faran wanted eight jailed rebels to be released.

Indian authorities believe the Al-Faran to be a front of the Harkatul Ansar group, comprising mainly Afghan guerrillas, which seized two British trekkers last year and released them unharmed after 17 days.

More than 12,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Moslem-dominated province since 1989, when Moslem separatists stepped up a campaign against Indian rule.

Western Experts Said 'Dominating' Hostage Issue

BK2908150295 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 28 Aug 95 p 1

[Article by Rahul Bedi: "Who's running Kashmir? India or West?"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] News reports from Srinagar indicating that British, American and German security experts are dominating the hostage issue in Kashmir, make two depressingly stark aspects clear.

Firstly, it shows that the Indian security forces and intelligence agencies exercise minimal control in Kashmir, despite claims of having brought the nearly six-year old insurgency down to "acceptable levels of violence".

And, secondly, but more pertinently, that New Delhi is passively being dictated to by foreign Governments on what is, still, our territory.

It would be a national travesty should it eventually turn out that foreign security experts — believed to be commandos from the British Special Air Services, the SAS and America's Delta Force — are controlling the hostage crisis with Indian army and intelligence agencies merely in attendance.

Meanwhile, official sources say around two dozen SAS commandos and around 90 men from Delta Force, the US army counter-terrorist unit have been conducting surveillance operations in the valley over the past 10 days.

Upon arrival, the Western commandos have reportedly installed sophisticated "tracking" equipment in the forests in southern Kashmir where the militants are believed to be holding the four Westerners.

The surveillance gadgets also have an inbuilt wireless and radiophone system to monitor all communication by Al-Faran militants carried out on sophisticated Chinese, Japanese and Taiwanese walkie- talkie sets.

Irate military officers say this "abdication" is not to their liking, but accept it as one which has politically been thrust upon them by New Delhi.

Shaken by the international fallout following the beheading of 27-year-old Hans Christian Ostro of Norway by Al-Faran activists 10 days ago and unsure on how to tackle the situation, military officers privately concede the Government has relinquished responsibility and in a sense, literally called in the Marines.

Home Ministry officials however, claim transparency and experience sharing as their alibi for the presence of the "cowboys" in Kashmir.

But irate military officials admit there is an attempt by the Government at self-preservation and to an extent, abjuring responsibility.

Simply put, if the hostages are released, unharmed, the Government scores.

And, if not, then the foreign experts, skilled in negotiating and dealing with terrorists, failed.

As it is, for over seven weeks after the five Westerners were kidnapped early last month, diplomats from countries to which the hostages belong, have been working their own channels of communication and negotiating with the kidnappers.

And, now that the stand-off is delicately poised, after the Norwegian's beheading, dealings with Al-Faran militants, holding out for the release of 15 jailed comrades, are reportedly subservient to the wishes of Western "security experts".

Doubtlessly, officials will argue that negotiating the release of hostages, especially after the Norwegian's brutal murder is a grey area, worked with the utmost delicacy and secrecy in which all avenues have be explored.

But surely, New Delhi realises there are limits to which indigenous security forces and intelligence agencies are forced into becoming handmaidens to western security experts.

And, though the Government claims no "joint operations" against Al-Faran militants are likely, its veracity is at a discount given the numerous, conflicting centres of power operating in Kashmir and the ad-hocism which pervades most decisions in the troubled State.

Official sources have also hinted that inducting Western "experts" into Kashmir has long term benefits for New Delhi.

They claim it will provide the countries involved an accurate picture of the situation on the ground, especially with regard to Pakistan's involvement in fuelling the civil war and help New Delhi resolving the 48-year old dispute with Western-read US-backing.

It is seen as an "investment" by India, anxious to win have Pakistan declared a "terrorist State".

But, despite India's optimism, wishful thinking and desperate lobbying, this has not happened and nor does it seem it ever will.

For, Mr Wisner India's principal advisor on Kashmir affairs, has categorically declared Washington will not declare Pakistan a terrorist State for "want of adequate proof and specific findings about it exporting terrorism". The US Ambassador told newsmen in Bhopal over the weekend that the US has not found any proof of Islamabad planning and executing terrorist activities, spy satellite pictures, notwithstanding.

Possibly, Mr Wisner like most Pakistanis believe the Inter Services Intelligence, the ISI, running Kashmir's insurgency is not a part of the establishment in Islamabad, but something outside its purview. And, therefore, not accountable.

Article Views Results of PRC Boundary Talks

BK3008080895 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 29 Aug 95 p 8

[Article by J.N. Dixit]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHINESE Vice-Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan and our Foreign Secretary Salman Haider deserve congratulations on the outcome of the eighth round of discussions of the Sino-Indian Joint Working Group (JWG) on the boundary question. Interaction between Chinese and Indian representatives on the follow-up of the agreement on the maintenance of peace and tranquillity on the Line of Actual Control (LAC), signed in Beijing in September, 1993 during Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's visit, was ambivalent throughout 1994 and until the early summer of 1995. A question had emerged in the public mind whether a drift was replacing the positive momentum generated by Premier Li Peng and Prime Minister Rao since 1991. These apprehensions stand dispelled by the results announced by Mr Haider and Mr Tang at the end of their four-day meeting.

The fact that the talks, which were originally scheduled for two and a half days or so, were extended to nearly four days, had two implications. First, that the subject matter of discussions was complex and there are still distances to be covered between the positions of the two countries on issues related to the LAC. Secondly, that both sides had a political brief to ensure as positive an orientation as possible in the decisions which they were to take. The most important agreement was the decision by both sides to pull back from their respective forward checkposts in the Sumdorong Chu Valley in the Wangdung area. The location of these posts since 1986 had created a situation which was correctly called as that of "close confrontation" .

One of the objectives of the 1993 agreement was to defuse this situation. (Some time in the middle of 1994 MEA [Ministry of External Affairs] officialdom started describing the juxtaposition of these posts as a situation of "close proximity", because some gentlemen thought that "confrontation" was too abrasive a word.

The fact, however, is that the location of armed Chinese and Indian posts at a distance of 50 to 100 yards from each other is a situation of confrontation rather than proximity). It is this problem which the leaders of the Indian and Chinese delegations addressed with objectivity and in a spirit of reasoning together.

Mutual withdrawals, of course, have the prescriptive rider that they are without prejudice to the respective positions of India and China on the alignment of the LAC. What is important is that the pulling back from close confrontation checkposts now clears the way for the two sides to address substantive questions of determining the LAC in sectors where there are differences of opinion about the alignment. There are about seven areas all along the LAC regarding which there is a difference of opinion. This problem will now be tackled with the incremental implementation of confidence-building measures.

Both sides would also be able to initiate discussions for a general disengagement from the forward deployment of their respective forces along the LAC and, where possible, reduction of these forces within the framework of the principle of assuring to each other "mutual and equal security" stipulated in the 1993 agreement. This last meeting of the JWG also agreed on implementing additional confidence-building measures, namely, expanding the range and increasing the frequency of reciprocal visits to each other's military establishments beyond the meetings now being held at the Spanggur gap in Ladakh and at Bumla in Arunachal Pradesh. At the field level, three more locations have been agreed upon for such meetings: at Nathu La in Sikkim, at Shipki La in Himachal Pradesh and Lipulekh in Uttar Pradesh. Indications are that since both Shipki La and Lipulekh fall in the middle sector of the Sino-Indian boundary, only one of these places would be chosen for such meetings.

It was agreed that exchanges at higher levels between the military establishments will be organised on a gradual basis. The expert group of officials consisting of military personnel, foreign office officials and cartographers is now expected to initiate discussions on resolving differences on the LAC. This group is also to prepare a draft protocol to be signed by India and China on advance notification of military exercises and for prevention of air intrusions. It was also agreed that facilities for border trade at Shipki La and Lipulekh will be improved and opening up additional points for border trade at Nathu La in Sikkim and Demchok in Ladakh would be explored.

It was decided at the December 1991 meeting of Premiers Li Peng and Narasimha Rao that the occasion of the JWG meetings should be utilised for discussions on matters of mutual interest and common concern in the spheres of foreign policy, economy, security environment, etc. That this decision was to be endowed with substantial political content is indicated by the fact that since early 1992 whenever the Foreign Secretary of India or Vice-Foreign Minister of China visited each other's country, they called on the Foreign Minister for discussions, setting aside normal protocol.

Mr Tang had a 45-minute meeting with our Minister for External Affairs. It is a measure of the increasing attitude of mutual trust and confidence that Sino-Indian relations would continue with their positive orientation and that Mr Haider and Mr Tang would convey the concerns of their respective countries to each other without inhibitions. Mr Tang is reported to have told Mr Haider that China views Tibetans' activities in India with considerable concern.

India's response was that while India acknowledges Tibet being an autonomous region of China, India cannot dilute the general democratic principles governing social and religious activities of people of various ethnic affiliations living in India. Mr Haider, in turn, conveyed India's objections to China enhancing Pakistan's missile weapons system by supplying M- 11 missiles. Mr Tang significantly did not deny China supplying such missiles to Pakistan. His response was that China conforms to the stipulations of the missile technology control regime [MTCR] guidelines, though it is not part of the MTCR regime. He also conveyed China's assessment that Chinese arms supplies to Pakistan will not disturb the South Asian regional military balance.

The next meeting of the expert group of the JWG to deal with the residuary issues related to the LAC is to be held some time early in 1996. Since one would be discussing the alignment of a geo-military phenomenon like the LAC, it would be worthwhile for our experts to study the manner in which China and the former Soviet Union resolved similar issues. Lessons could also be learnt from the principles and procedures discussed between Israel and Syria, Israel and Jordan and Israel and Egypt in dealing with such issues.

The question naturally occurs as to when both sides will move on to discuss the substantive question of settling, the Sino-Indian boundary dispute? This will be a long-term process, which can be initiated only after resolving all issues related to the LAC. The final solution to the boundary dispute will also involve both India and China moving away from their relevant historical concepts on the basis of which both countries tried to solve the problem during their discussions between 1956 and 1961.

A solution will have to be found on the basis of a realistic political and modem cartographic approach, which would make the boundary durable and stable, ensuring the mutual security of India and China. The resolution of the boundary question will also depend on India's and China's evolving regional policies and strategic perceptions. Three factors which should govern our attitude in discussions with China on the boundary question should be: we must be patient, we must constantly indicate that we are seriously desirous of resolving the boundary dispute, and we must not show any anxiety or insecurity in dealing with China on this issue.

Daily Welcomes Aircraft Venture With PRC, ROK

BK3008070295 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 29 Aug 95 p 13

[Editorial: "Path-breaking troika"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A memorandum of understanding signed at Shanghai on Sunday [27 August] between India, China and South Korea to produce passenger aircraft will cheer Asian hearts. For, this provides clinching evidence that at least some Asian countries, other than Japan, have attained a level of technological prowess which has been an exclusive domain of the United States and Europe.

The distinction between the capability to produce military and civilian aircraft is important. Both China and India have developed the expertise to produce military aircraft, mainly on the basis of former Soviet technology. But a Government undertaking manufacturing military hardware is free from cost accountability. In the case of the India-China-Korea project to produce the 100-seat passenger aircraft, the cost aspect is crucial. Unless it is competitive and commercially viable, the aircraft will hardly have a market to sustain the venture. So, it can be assumed that the consortium of the three countries has satisfied itself about its ability to apply to Western level technology at a competitive price. Reports indicate that the State-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and the public sector Aviation Industries of China will have 30 per cent equity each while the Korea Commercial Aircraft Development Centre of the Samsung Aerospace Industries will have 40 per cent equity.

The aircraft the troika hopes to manufacture is expected to come about by 2000 AD when the Boeing 737, which dominated the market in the non-widebodied sector, is proposed to be phased out. Both Boeing and Europe's Airbus industries plan to manufacture new 100- seat aircraft. Although they are market leaders, the troika aircraft should still have a good market, especially in the commercially booming Asia-Pacific region which is poised to witness a tremendous explosion in air traffic in the coming decades. While the joint venture is to be welcomed and fully supported, India should explore new areas for high level technological collaboration with other Asian countries. A joint project with China is also an investment in peace. In the recent past, India has prudently been looking East for economic cooperation. The troika project raises hope that India's efforts at promoting intra-Asian technological cooperation will receive a boost.

Malian President Pays Official Four-Day Visit

Arrives, Speaks to Reporters

BK2808095095 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president of Mali, Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, arrived in New Delhi this morning on a four-day state visit to India. Mr. Konare was received by the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, and the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, and his cabinet colleagues at Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house], where he was given a ceremonial welcome.

Later, talking to newsmen, Mr. Konare said India could play an important role in strengthening South-South cooperation. Describing India as the country of the future, the Mali president said he is looking forward to an eventful relationship with New Delhi. During his stay in the capital, Mr. Konare will have talks with the president, the vice president, the prime minister, and the external affairs minister. Bilateral and other matters concerning the region will figure during the talks.

Calls For 'South-South Cooperation'

BK2808163095 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The president of Mali, Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, has called for greater South-South cooperation and said India has an important role to play in this area. He described India as a country of the future. The president of Mali was given a warm welcome on his arrival in New Delhi today for a four-day visit. Mr. Konare and his wife were received by the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma; the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao; and his cabinet colleagues. The Mali president was received in the yellow drawing room of the Rashtrapati Bhavan [president house]. The reception could not take place outdoors due to a heavy downpour.

Later, the president of Mali called on the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma. The prime minister, Mr. P.V.

Narasimha Rao, also called on the president of Mali. During his meeting, Mr. Rao said that India is deeply interested in improving relations with African countries.

During the official-level talks, India and Mali agreed to constitute a ministerial team to make an in-depth study to identify areas for cooperation in science and technology, trade, agriculture, rural development, small-scale industries, and culture. Mr. Rao said cooperation between India and Mali, despite abundant goodwill, is still to achieve its potential. The foreign [as heard] affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, also called on the visiting president.

Attends Banquet; President Sharma Speaks

BK2908041195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has called for pooling up resources to find solutions to the problems of poverty, ignorance, and disease. The call was given by the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, while speaking at a banquet hosted in honor of the visiting president of Mali, Mr. Alpha Oumar Konare, in New Delhi last night. He said the sharing of benefits of technology between the developed and developing countries remains uneven. The causes leading to environmental degradation also remain unaddressed. Dr. Sharma pointed out that the opening up of the economies of the developing countries is not being reciprocated by the developed nations. The president offered to share with Mali India's experience in various fields in the spirit of South-South cooperation.

Says 'Partner' in African Development

BK2908161395 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Konare of Mali has called for a bigger role for India in Africa's development. Mali can be a partner for cooperation in this venture. A joint statement issued at the end of two days of talks in New Delhi today said President Konare made the offer at the discussions between the two sides on bilateral, regional, and international issues.

President Konare had meetings with the president, the prime minister, and external affairs minister, besides the official-level discussions. Several areas were identified for India's assistance in the development of Mali. These include coal mining, health, primary education, drinking water, agriculture, and small-scale industries. Both sides agreed to sign cultural and trade agreements soon.

President Konare supported India's stand on the Kashmir issue and said it should be resolved through peaceful bilateral negotiations under the Simla Agreement. He also offered to work closely with India and other leading countries of NAM [Nonaligned Movement] to give a new impetus to the nonaligned movement. Emphasizing South-South cooperation, he said it has to be reinforced as North-South cooperation had not yielded the desired results.

The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, offered India's full cooperation to the visiting president.

Minister Urges States To Fight Nontrade Barriers

BK2908161795 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has urged member countries of the South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement, SAPTA, to present a united front to take on the nontrade barriers put by developed countries. Inaugurating a roundtable on SAPTA in New Delhi today, the external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, said the countries of the South Asian region should have common views to confront nontrade issues that would affect trade promotion in the region:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Delegates at this meeting in the capital to discuss SAPTA today recommended legalizing cross-border trade as a way of boosting trade between the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries. Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, union minister for external affairs, also present at the meeting, agreed with the suggestion:

[Mukherjee] I want that [word indistinct] border trade should be regularized, and we are asking all the countries concerned that instead of allowing this informal trade to grow, we should try to legalize and regularize the border trade because here only the exchequers are losing the revenue.

[Correspondent] At present the trade between the SAARC nations is quite low. For example, India's exports to these countries has been only 2.8 percent of her total exports. Officials from other countries also pointed out the economic logic for SAPTA:

[Sri Lankan High Commissioner Munasinghe, identified by caption] Here in this region you have one of the largest market in the world containing about one-fifth of population of the world.

[Correspondent] Apart from this, Mr. Mukherjee felt being a trade bloc will help us get better bargaining power against other countries. Experts also said to really improve trade relations, the business community has to take the initiative:

[Former SAARC Commerce Secretary Mukesh Gulati, identified by caption] They have to actually carry out the trade. They have to make the investment within the SAARC region. They have to ensure that there is a movement of the business community from one region to the other. They have to realize the profits out of the whole game.

[Correspondent] Indian industry feels the scope of SAPTA should be expanded to include removing non-tariff barriers. The Indian government agrees with this, but says such a movement have to be endorsed by all the SAARC countries. [end recording]

'Massive and Complete Strike' Reported in Kashmir

BK2808164195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] People across occupied Kashmir observed today a massive and complete strike against elections to the Ladakh Hill Council. Shops and business establishments remained closed and transport was off the road in response to a general strike called by the All Parties Hurriyat Conference. In Srinagar, Indian troops fired in the air and lobbed tear gas to disperse Kashmiri demonstrations. At least 10 people were injured when police used force to prevent them from marching toward the UN office. The injured included the president of Jammu and Kashmir Liberation front, Mr. Yasin Malik. The protesters raised slogans against today's fraudulent elections to a 30-member autonomous council in the Kashmiri hill district of Leh.

In his comments after Indian troops fired guns in the air and lobbed tear gas, the All Parties Hurriyat Conference Leader, Maulvi Omar Farooq, in Srinagar termed the fraudulent elections as a breach of UN resolutions on Kashmir dispute and said the hard reality is that Kashmir is not an integral part of India. He also distrbuted copies of a letter addressed to the UN secretary general terming the polls as a malicious attempt to create communal hatred and regional bias. Another leader of the conference, Syed Ali Gilani, said elections are no solution. He said our fight is not for elections, but ousting India out of Kashmir. He said the best way to end the Kashmir dispute is by starting serious negotiations between India, Pakistan, and the Kashmiris.

Meanwhile, reports of fighting between Indian occupation troops and freedom fighters have been received from Islamabad, Chabal, Pulwama, Tral, Shopian, Baramulla and Kupwara. Twelve people were martyred, while a number of troops were killed and injured.

Kashmir's Leh Council Election Results Announced

BK3008093295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, all the four results of the Leh Autonomous Development Council have been announced. The Congress-I has bagged two seats and the independents two. With this, the Congress-I's strength has gone up to 24 in the 30-member council. The remaining four members will be nominated by the state governor.

Minister Details State's Privatization Plan

BK2808141595 Hyderabad DECCAN CHRONICLE in English 16 Aug 95 pp 1, 12

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Hyderabad, Aug. 15 — The State government is contemplating to privatise roads, bridges, waterways and development of coastal areas, the Chief Minister, Mr N T Rama Rao, announced here on Tuesday [15 August].

Speaking at the 49th Independence Day celebrations after reviewing the colourful parade at the sprawling Parade Grounds in Secunderabad, Mr Rama Rao said that his government was working out the details for privatising these vital sectors for the overall development of the State.

Mr Rama Rao said that his government has been encouraging privatisation in the field of power generation for rapid industrialisation of the State. Since the resources at the disposal of the government were inadequate, it was going in a big way to privatise the power generation and the works would be entrusted to only deserving persons.

Referring to his district tours — taking the government to the people — beginning on August 17, Mr N T Rama Rao called upon the people to come out openly with their problems so that he could solve them "then and there". He urged the people to come out openly and cooperate with the government to solve their problems.

Mr Rama Rao emphasised the need for spreading the welfare programmes being implemented in the State to other parts of the country to provide basic needs like food, clothing and shelter to the people. The Chief Minister also explained the success of the implementation of his pet programmes like total prohibition, subsidised rice, slab rate agricultural power connections, elections to local bodies, involvement of parents in running schools, distribution of health cards to students and others.

Mr Rama Rao also called for a thorough review of the Constitution in view of about 90 amendments to it and demanded implementation of Sarkaria Commission recommendations on Center-State relations. The Central Government, he said, had infringed on the constitutional rights of States jeopardising the democratic fabric. Mr Rama Rao said that he would work for constitutional reforms in the larger interest of the democracy and all-round development of the States.

Stating that the State government was trying its best to implement the Bachawat Award [on Cauvery river water dispute] in toto, Mr Rama Rao said that his government was determined to construct all the pending projects at an exorbitant cost of Rs [rupees] 16,000 crore to utilise the surplus waters according to the Bachawat Award but it was facing many obstacles.

Earlier, the Chief Secretary, Dr M S Rajaji, and the Director General of Police, Mr M S Raju, received the Chief Minister at the Parade Grounds when he arrived along with his wife, Ms Lakshmi Parvathi. [passage omitted]

Iran

Velayati Explains Basis of Foreign Policy

LD3008120395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Velayati said today that the U.S. embargo has further strengthened Iran's international relations.

The foreign minister, who was talking to our correspondent on the occasion of Government Week, spoke of issues relating to Iran and its foreign relations. He added: Because today's industrialized societies need oil, as international oil market experts admit, the U.S. sanctions have had no effect on Iran's oil sales, and Tehran has exported its oil without difficulty.

About the provision of goods the country needs he said: Because industrialized countries are competing with each other to sell their products, the U.S. embargo has not caused any problems for us. The only ones to lose out by Washington's action were U.S. oil and commercial companies.

He said the presence of U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf is a new method of creating tension. He said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is alertly monitoring developments in the region, and has confidence in the ability of the nation and the defenders of the country to prevent tension.

About Iran's foreign policy on the Bosnian crisis he said: That issue is foremost in Iran's foreign policy. If it were not for the help of Islamic countries, such as Iran, perhaps there would not be a trace of Bosnia left on the map of the world today.

On the deadlock in the Middle Eastern trade talks he stressed: The Islamic Republic of Iran's independent policy on Middle Eastern issues, which has gradually shown its efficacy, continues as strong as ever. He added: The failure of the compromise between 'Arafat and the Zionist regime is proof that Iran's viewpoints are correct.

About Iran's ties with Russia he said: The two countries are determined to expand their ties on the basis of mutual interest, equal rights, and noninterference in each other's domestic affairs.

He stressed the need to expand regional cooperation, particularly in the Caspian Sea area. He called for the legal status of that sea to be determined.

Finally, he said Iran's foreign policy is based on defending the interests of Islam and Iran. We are determined to put up as strong a defense as possible of the foundations of our foreign policy.

Commentary: Time for 'Justice' in Iraq Near

NC3008103495 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 19 Aug 95 p 16

[Political commentary: "The War Criminals Are Still Alive"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tomorrow coincides with the date of the official cease-fire between Iran and Iraq, a cease-fire still bogged down in its initial stages because covert hands do not want the conflict to enter the next stage of a complete peace.

The imposed [Iran-Iraq] war began with aggression, continued as an unequal war, and ended by relegating justice to a haze of silence!

Today, those who are part of the 10-member family at the helm of power in Iraq and those who have become the victims of the power struggle in that family are the creators of all woes. These are criminals and there will be no justice until they are punished. [passage omitted]

The Ba'th Party thrives on creating crises and a war situation or maintaining a situation in which there is neither war nor peace. The stagnating status quo with regard to peace between Iran and Iraq is the outcome of this policy. Toying with the fate of the POW's and MIA's and their waiting families is the most conspicuous sign of their cowardly political games with the victims of the eight-year war. To retain its ability to bargain, Iraq has no qualms about continuing such a policy.

Kamil Hasan first contaminated the Persian Gulf region with chemical weapons and missiles, which took the lives of thousands of innocent Iranian children and civilians. He was the one who issued the direct order for the manufacture and use of these chemical weapons. He was the pioneer of the Hiroshima of the eighties that was Halabjah. Now he claims to be ready to sacrifice himself for the Iraqi nation.

Those who harp on about punishing those responsible for the Persian Gulf war now wish to utilize the services of the former violators as their pawns in Iraq.

It appears that now even history has tired of the myth of the punishment of war criminals. The time for justice approaches. Now the Ba'thist butchers will be killed by their own former associates.

Situation in Iraq, U.S. 'Strategy' Analyzed

NC2508121595 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 Aug 95 p 2

[Editorial: "The Fate of Iraq Should Be Decided by the Iraqis"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The foreign ministers of Iran, Turkey and Syria are to meet in Esfahan on September 7 to discuss the latest situation in Iraq.

In the post-Cold War era, the United States has been following a two-pronged policy for bolstering its influence in other countries: direct military intervention (Haiti and Iraq), and planting agents at the apex of political hierarchies of its proxies.

The United States tried military intervention in Iraq to wipe out the Ba'th Party from power. But it changed its mind overnight when it realized that the true representatives of the people would come to power if Saddam Husayn and his Ba'th Party were to fall. Hence, it decided to keep Saddam.

Now, the situation in Iraq is so grave that Saddam's next of kin flee the country. Having realized that the situation may undergo a sea change at any time, the United States has decided to try its second strategy.

Whether Washington resorts to military intervention in Iraq or tries to get its plot implemented through hobnobbing with certain elements, U.S. plans would not benefit the Iraqi people.

Through their talks, the three foreign ministers should impart a message to foreign powers, especially the United States, that only Iraqi people are entitled to determine the fate of Iraqis.

As the Islamic Republic of Iran has officially announced several times, the territorial integrity of Iraq is unquestionable. No alien power should cast a covetous eye on any part of Iraq. No doubt, the central government in Iraq is weak and alienated from its people. This does not, however, mean that Washington is eligible to decide the Iraqis' fate.

Larijani Condemns U.S. Military Buildup in Gulf

LD2908201095 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1930 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The vice-president of the foreign policy commission of the Iranian Islamic consultative assembly, Mr. Mohammad Javad Larijani, has condemned the U.S. military expedition to the Persian Gulf, describing it as suspicious.

In a meeting with the Indian deputy foreign minister, Mr. Salman Haidar, Mr. Larijani said that the Americans have come to the region under the pretext of protecting certain Arab states; However today, after plundering tens of billions of dollars from the region's wealth, they are apparently seeking to intervening in the political structure of these countries.

According to incoming reports, eight new frigates, carrying military equipment, have arrived in the Persian Gulf and three other warships are heading towards the Persian Gulf waters. Based on the same reports, thousands of American militarymen have arrived in Kuwait to apparently take part in a joint maneuver with that sheikdom.

U.S. 'Interference' in South Africa Oil Deal Noted

NC2908132095 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 17 Aug 95 p 16

[Political commentary: "Another Blow for the U.S. Policy of Interference"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In the past week, following the visit by the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign minister to South Africa, another lethal blow was dealt to the policy of the U.S. trade embargo against Iran. On a higher level, political circles construe the forging of these commercial and diplomatic links as a blow to Washington's overall policy of international interference.

In addition to the White House's general policy, which is based on opposition to any international cooperation with Tehran, some other reasons may be mentioned for this government's sensitivity toward the recent agreements reached between Dr. Velayati and Pretoria's officials.

1. In the aftermath of the Islamic Revolution, the Islamic Republic of Iran attacked all kinds of racial discrimination at an international level and accordingly severed many political and economic relations with

this apartheid government, even in the field of sports. Whenever the protests in South Africa were suppressed by the white minority, Iran's outcry in favor of the blacks and opposing racial discrimination reached the ears of the world. They considered the Iranian nation their true supporter devoid of any kind of deceit or double standard.

Against such a backdrop, the visit by an Iranian political, economic, and cultural delegation to South Africa could serve to reinforce pro-Iranian sentiments among blacks. The latter have endured a dark period of discrimination and are seeking a free culture based on human merit without artificial discrimination. The Islamic culture of Iran could be an appropriate answer to such a vacuum.

2. The oil agreement between Iran and South Africa, especially Pretoria's willingness to store 15 million barrels of Iranian oil in its coastal oil reservoirs in Saldanha, also incurred the opprobrium of the United States. In accordance with its economic embargo of Iran, the White House wished to deal a blow to Iran's ability to sell its oil. The American oil companies, which purchased more than $4 billion of Iranian oil, are now encountering difficulties in this regard. The other oil sellers who are willing to meet their oil needs are imposing more difficult terms on them.

However, Iran has quickly found new customers to replace the Americans and has only 200,000 extra barrels of oil which will enter the market in the next two months. Under such circumstances the Petroleum Ministry's decision to store crude oil instead of selling it cheaply indicates the increasing stability of Iran's oil exports, which has incensed the White House.

The Iranian foreign minister's visit to South Africa and the sensitivity about U.S. interference in this regard has had some valuable consequences. Once again the world and the South African Government, which the United States was so sure about, gave harsh responses to the U.S. policy of interference.

Frederik de Klerk, President Mandela's deputy, criticized the U.S. "dictatorial" policy and accused Washington of adopting a discriminatory policy regarding his country, which has recently abandoned the abhorrent policy of discrimination.

Once again the White House's policy has suffered a blow. Will the Democrat wolves learn a lesson from it?

Foreign Ministry Statement Condemns Sarajevo Deaths

LD2908204695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 29 Aug 95

[Statement issued by the Foreign Ministry "condemning the recent crimes by the Serbs in Sarajevo"; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran calls on all Islamic governments and nations and also the Organization of Islamic Conference to rise in unison in support of the legitimate rights of the Muslims of Bosnia without delay, because of the clear negligence of the United Nations in defending the safe zones, and defend the independence, territorial integrity, dignity, and honor of the Bosnian Muslims, which is a religious duty.

The statement reads: The killing, the murder, and the making homeless of hundreds of thousands of Bosnians still continues after three years, and bitter past experience has shown the reality that the Serbs, to exert psychological pressure, are resorting to such measures to terrorize the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The statement adds: Undoubtedly the recent slaughters by the Serbs in the so-called safe zone of Sarajevo is not, and will not be, their latest crime. At the same time, the fact is more clear to the world today that showing indifference and giving concessions to the Serbs encourages and incites them to further escalate their unlawful acts of aggression against the defenseless Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The statement stresses: The multitude of resolutions and statements by the UN Security Council have been constantly ignored by the aggressor Serbs, and all diplomatic plans and moves have so far failed due to their unprincipled stance.

The statement adds: The people of Bosnia-Herzegovina have, for some time, reached the conclusion that considering the indifference of international and Western forums to their fate, while the United Nations does not want to, or cannot, identify and punish those guilty of the mass slaughters in Sarajevo, if they [Bosnians] wish to preserve their Islamic and national identity and independence, they must rely solely on God and themselves.

Ministry Denies Expulsion of Iranian, German Envoys

LD2908134795 Tehran IRNA in English 1339 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 29, IRNA — A Foreign Ministry spokesman here today, denied news reports that two Iranian diplomats had been expelled from Germany and that Iran had retaliated the move.

Asked to comment on the reported expulsion of two Iranian diplomats from German recently, the spokesman said: "Recently two Iranian diplomats have returned home from Germany because their term of office had come to an end."

He also denied the reported news in the media about the expulsion of two German diplomats from Iran.

Nigerian Oil Delegation Arrives, Meets Minister

LD2808114295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A delegation of Nigerian oil officials led by Nigeria's minister of state for oil affairs, arrived in Tehran today to attract the cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] in the reconstruction of Nigerian oil industries. The delegation resumed negotiations with Iran's Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh and Iranian oil experts.

At the talks, Kabir Solyman, the Nigerian minister of state for oil affairs, declared his country's willingness to make use of the experiences of the IRI in the sphere of oil refinery and petrochemical industries, including the participation of Iranian experts in training expert manpower for the Nigerian petrochemical industries.

Explaining the situation of our country in the oil, gas, and petrochemical industries, Mr. Aqazadeh announced the IRI's readiness to cooperate in these spheres with Nigeria.

During its three-day visit in Iran, the Nigerian delegation will visit refinery and petrochemical industries in Tehran and Esfahan and meet our country's high-ranking authorities.

Nigeria, with production of 1,865,000 barrels of oil, ranks sixth among the OPEC oil producing countries and intends to reorganize its oil installations.

Guinea's Foreign Minister Arrives on Official Visit

LD2808114495 Tehran IRNA in English 1029 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 28, IRNA — Guinea Foreign Minister Kozo Zomanigui, arrived here Monday [28 August] on a 3-day official visit carrying a message from Guinean President Lansana Conte for President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

He was welcomed at Tehran's international airport by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

Upon arrival at Mehrabad airport, Zomanigui expressed satisfaction over his presence in Tehran and said his trip was aimed at discussing promotion of bilateral cooperation as well as current international developments with Iranian officials.

Referring to Conakry-Tehran relations as friendly, Velayati said the two countries enjoy close economic and political ties and that different delegations have been exchanged between the two states so far.

Commenting on various economic agreements reached between the two countries, the Iranian foreign minister stressed that Iran's numerous trade exhibitions held in Guinea have been warmly welcomed by people of that country.

Since the foreign ministerial meeting of the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) is due to be held in Guinea in December, Velayati noted, Iran and Guinea may cooperate in solving problems existing in the world of Islam particularly in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Meets Zomanigui

LD2908172995 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received Guinean Foreign Minister Kozo Zomanigui today. At the meeting, Zomanigui delivered a written message from Guinean President Lansana Conte on strengthening friendly ties.

The Guinean foreign minister asked for Iran's help in organizing the session of the foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Conference [OIC] in that country.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed optimism about the OIC foreign ministers' session in Guinea. He said: We expect that the session will help strengthen solidarity and solve the common problems of Islamic countries, such as Palestine, Bosnia, and Somalia.

The president also welcomed the expansion of mutual ties in all fields of interest to the two countries.

Zomanigui Departs After Talks

LD3008103795 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 30, IRNA — Guinean Foreign Minister Kozo Zomanigui wound up his visit to Tehran Wednesday [30 August] after signing a letter of understanding on cooperation in various fields.

Zomanigui was seen off by his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati at Tehran airport at the end of his 3-day visit.

Before departure, the Guinean minister told reporters that during his stay in Tehran he had fruitful discussions with Iranian officials on bilateral, regional and international issues particularly those of the Islamic world.

The letter of understanding deals with the impending visit to Tehran by the Guinean president, establishment of the Guinean Embassy in Tehran, training of Guinean diplomats in Iran, and establishment of an Iranian clinic in Conakry.

He assessed the outcome of his talks with Iranian officials as positive and fruitful and expressed hope Tehran-Conakry relations would be further consolidated.

The Guinean official also pointed out that the two countries reached agreements concerning mining, transportation, agriculture, and fishing.

Meanwhile Velayati said that the visit to Tehran of Zomanigui was aimed to consult with the Iranian officials about the December meeting of the foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Conakry.

The Iranian foreign minister termed Tehran-Conakry ties good and friendly in all dimensions.

Velayati said that upon the request made by the Guinean authorities Iran will take part in reconstruction of Guinea.

Deputy Majles Speaker Returns From 3-Nation Trip

LD2608220495 Tehran IRNA in English
1843 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 26 (IRNA) — Vice-Speaker of the Majles Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rowhani returned home Saturday [26 August] at the conclusion of his visits to Armenia, Georgia and Turkmenistan.

He said upon arrival at Mehrabad Airport that parliamentary friendship groups between Iran and the three neighbouring republics would shortly be formed.

Rowhani, who is also secretary of the Supreme National Security Commission, said that during his three-nation visit he and his counterparts in each of those republics discussed the progress of the work of joint commissions between Iran and the respective countries.

During his visit to Georgia, he also visited the Black Sea ports of Poti and Batumi, and discussed a possible overland link with Iranian ports on the Persian Gulf.

Rowhani said that as the result of his talks with the officials of Turkmenistan the proposition of the legal regime of the Caspian Sea could now be tackled perhaps easier than before.

He indicted that the legal regime of the Caspian Sea would have to be adopted by the unanimous vote of the littoral countries which include Iran, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

Official on Political Freedom in Upcoming Elections

LD2608111695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0930 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Parliamentary elections for the fifth term of the Islamic Majles will be held on 8 March 1996. There will be 196 polling stations throughout the country. The socio-political deputy of the Interior Ministry announced this news today. He said: Five polling stations are allocated to the religious minorities in the country. Mr. Tabesh added: In order to assist the compatriots in remote and mountainous areas to cast their votes, there will be 3,000 more polling stations than in the previous elections.

Speaking on the occasion of Government Week, Mr. Tabesh said: One of the duties of the Interior Ministry is to pave the grounds for giving more political and social freedom to the people, as well as making certain that the law on the formation of political parties is fully implemented. He added: So far, this ministry has issued licences to 33 political groups, 81 association of guilds and professional bodies, and 22 societies of religious minorities to engage in political activities.

Mr. Tabesh went on: Within the framework of the constitution, all individuals and organizations [tashakkol-ha] may contact the Interior Ministry to register their names; and if they are approved, they can start their campaign.

He stressed: No one and no group is allowed to disturb the peace or to stop the activity and campaign of various organizations, individuals, and parties, which continue their campaign in accordance with the constitution and the law on the formation of parties.

Mr. Tabesh concluded his remarks by saying that a comprehensive plan is being drawn for new administrative boundaries of the provinces. However, in view of the need for maintaining the existing provincial boundaries during the coming Majles elections, the new changes will not be introduced until the end of Esfand this year [until 20 March 1996].

Opposition Party Speaks on Political Freedom

NC3008103595 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 21 Aug 95 p 15

[From the News Desk]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Ebrahim Yazdi, the secretary general of the Nehzat-e Azadi-ye Iran [Freedom Movement of Iran] and three other members of its Central Committee held a news conference yesterday and presented their views on the subject of freedom for political parties and factions in the country.

Dr. Yazdi said there is no freedom of activity for political parties in Iran and commented: The Nehzat-e Azadi-ye Iran, which is an Islamic, nationalist political party of longstanding, believes that the attainment of freedom and national sovereignty is not possible without the extensive and free activity of political parties for or against the government.

The secretary general of the Nehzat-e Azadi, who was speaking freely with domestic and foreign correspondents, accused the officials of the system for violations of political freedom in society.

He referred to an interview of a member of the commission on Article 10 pertaining to the activities of political parties in the country and said: It was announced in the interview that political parties do not require a license from the interior ministry to operate and this is a positive step for the attainment of political freedom in society. However freedom without security is meaningless.

Dr. Yazdi stated: Pressure groups prevent the free activity of political parties. He did not identify who these groups, organizations, or individuals were.

He continued: The government should prevent the violation of political freedoms in society.

He recalled: The Nehzat-e Azadi adheres to the principle of the rightfulness of the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran's system and believes in its Constitution, but does not agree with the performance of its officials.

One of the correspondents asked Dr. Yazdi: You say that you accept the Constitution. Do you believe in the Velayat-e Faqih [rule by the supreme jurisconsult] which is in the Constitution?

He replied: It is not stated in the Constitution that political parties should believe in the Velayat-e Faqih. This would be tantamount to [word indistinct] of beliefs and the Constitution has prohibited the policing of beliefs. However we are beholden to the Constitution.

Responding to a query on whether the Nehzat-e Azadi will personally nominate a candidate for the fifth term Majles elections, Dr. Yazdi said: Every one has the right to be a candidate under the Constitution. However, if the activities of the Nehzat-e Azadi are hindered, it cannot nominate or support its candidate.

At this conference, Dr. Yazdi commented on the endorsement or opposition to the qualifications of the election candidates by the Guardians' Council and asserted: The people themselves are the ones who should decide the competence of candidates. The voters are the ones who should determine who they would want as their deputy.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Speaks at 'Employees Day' Ceremony

LD2708104295 Tehran IRNA in English 1408 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 26, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here on Saturday [26 August] appreciated the services rendered by the state employees and said they formed the major part of administration of the Islamic Republic.

Speaking at a special ceremony to mark the "Employees Day" (Aug. 26) coinciding with the third day of the Government Week (Aug. 24-30), he described the state employees as most faithful, active, complaisant and self-disciplined.

"We should respect the prestige and personality of the state employees and at the same time prevent certain corrupt individuals from questining the prestige of a state organization."

The president emphasized the necessity for promotion of productivity within the state institutions and added the government employees should exercise devotion to work as recommended by the leader of the Islamic revolution, Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i.

He expressed dismay at certain false statements challenging the services of the state employees and said, "I'm sure the administration system is now among the best and active parts of the government and other interpretations against those who extend sincere services to the government are unfair".

He called on the mass media to pay special attention to the prestige of the government employees.

He also proposed the publication as mouthpiece of government employees to study their problems on a regular basis. [sentence as received]

He pointed to the presence of over 600,000 women working in the state institutions and said their presence showed the activity of women in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Before the president, secretary general of the organization of state administration and employment affairs, Mohammad Mir Mohammadi said that at present 2,300,000 persons are working in state organizations. He also introduced 16 model employees [passage indistinct].

Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Domestically Manufactured Goods

LD2808131695 Tehran IRNA in English
1250 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA — President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Sunday [27 August] underlined the priority already given by his government to support domestically manufactured goods.

Speaking in a meeting with members of the market adjustment headquaters, Rafsanjani called on the officials in charge of controlling the market to seriously deal with profiteers and to enforce punitive measures against the profiteers.

The vice-president and the head of the plan and budget organization, Hamid Mirzadeh said at the meeting that his organization has drawn up special programs to back the decisions made by the market adjustment headquarters.

Also present at the meeting were vice-president for executive affairs, Mohammad Hashemi who gave a report on the programs pursued by different committees of the market adjustment headquarters.

The Central Bank of Iran (CBI) governor, Mohsen Nourbakhsh reported on the CBI's performance in allotting foreign exchange at export rates to eligible applicants.

The CBI governor said according to programs already adopted, different sectors have been provided with their required hard currency.

Nourbakhsh emphasized that statistics showed that the programme already declared for purchase of the hard cash earned from export of commodities, was going ahead well as expected.

Construction Jihad Minister on Ministry Performance

LD2508144195 Tehran IRNA in English
1151 GMT 25 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 25, IRNA — Construction Jihad Minister Gholam Reza Foruzesh here Friday [25 August] said a total of 1,600 rural development projects have gone on stream since March 21, 1995.

Addressing worshippers at Friday prayers before the sermons at Tehran University campus here on the occasion of the government week (August 24-31), he said 1,300 rural development projects will be put into operation during the week. He said that over 75 percent of the country's villagers benefited from infrastructural services at present and the figure was expected to rise by over 90 percent at the end of the second five-year economic development plan (1995- 1999).

The minister said that about 1,500 kms of rural roads were built last year and 2,500 kms asphalted and renovated. Furthermore, 1,100 villages were supplied with drinking water and 1,200 others with power, he added.

Foruzesh said rural roads were increased to up to 32,000 kms after the 1979 Islamic revolution from 8,000 kms. He expected that 14,500 kms of rural roads would be asphalted by the end of the second five-year plan.

Referring to the role of foodstuff and agricultural development in attaining independence, Foruzesh said 12,000 agreements in principle were issued for establishment of industrial centers at rural areas in the first five-year economic development plan (1989- 1994) and 34,000 industrial centers were established at Iranian villages within the period.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Foruzesh said 400,000 weavers were busy weaving carpets on 200,000 carpet looms. He said 1.5 million sq. meters of carpets are being woven at rural areas 80 percent of which are exported.

Foruzesh said red meat output increased to 670,000 tons in 1994 from 365,000 tons in 1979. Poultry production, on the other hand, rose to 580,000 tons in the Iranian year of 1372 (March 21, 1993-March 20, 1994) from 160,000 tons in 1979, with egg output reaching 490,000 tons at present from 160,000 tons in 1979, he continued.

Foruzesh said milk output reached 4,310,000 tons in 1994, from about 2,700,000 tons in 1979. He expressed hope that the country would reach self-sufficient in cheese production during the current year (ending March 20, 1996). He put the total value of the aforementioned products and those of fisheries at about dlrs. four billion annually.

Foruzesh said the country attained self-sufficiency by 87 percent in its agricultural products, capable of meeting 93.5 percent of domestic demands for protein.

The construction Jihad Ministry had ceded five million hectares of land to live-stock breeders in the first five-year development plan, he said.

The minister said operations were launched to revive 4,698,000 hectares of pastures by the end of the first development plan. The figure, however, stood at 120,000 hectares in 1979.

Among other activities of the Ministry, Foruzesh cited establishment of 34,000 Islamic councils, 1,220 libraries in rural regions and holding agricultural training courses for over 2,600,000 villagers.

Deputy Energy Minister on Progress of Power Industry

LD2708204295 Tehran IRNA in English 2027 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA — Rls. [Rials] 28,300 billion are to be injected into the power industry in the current 5-year plan (started last March) compared to the figure of rls. 16,000 billion which went into this field during the first 5-year development plan (1989-1994).

Deputy Energy Minister for Power Affairs, Malaki, said at a gathering of power industry general-managers here on Sunday that by the end of the first plan there was a rise of 21,000 megawatts in power production and 1,635 kilowatts per hour in per capita power consumption.

At the same time, he added, 52,000 kms of transmission lines were built across the country and the number of subscribers rose to 12 million.

In related news, Deputy Head of Power Generation and Distribution Company for Planning and Development Affairs Asadollah Saburi told IRNA on Saturday that Iran ranks 20th in terms of power generation capacity.

Saburi expected the generation capacity of Iran's power plants to reach 22,500 megawatts by end of the current year (March 20, 1996).

He added that in the first plan 4,275 megawatts of power was added to the country's total power generation capacity.

He said power plants cost over rls. 913 billion plus over dlrs. 3.5 billion to be put into operation.

Over 2000 Projects Said Implemented in Deprived Regions

LD2808141895 Tehran IRNA in English 1358 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug. 28, IRNA — Some 2,100 development projects have been put into operation in the deprived regions on the occasion of government week (August 24-30), government spokesman announced here Sunday [27 August].

First Vice-President Dr. Hassan Habibi said that for implementation of the projects rls. [rials] 236.633 billion had been spent to provide 395,595 families at 5,080 deprived rural areas with required facilities.

Habibi said that 228 out of the total projects were in the areas of education, 146 medicare, 1,420 drinking water, 5,630 power supply, 77 renovation and 808 cultural projects.

He added that in the area of education, 972 classrooms and 23 evening schools had been set up.

In the area of health, 22 health centers, including 107 medicare centers, were set up, the official announced.

Habibi said that within the period 207 villages had been supplied with water, roads were built at 425 villages, 700 villages were supplied with electricity and 228 villages were renovated. Furthermore, he added, 54 sports projects had been implemented in 85 villages, 81 cultural projects at 874 villages and 673 telecommunications and agricultural projects at 1,231 villages within the period.

He concluded that the projects had been implemented by Ministries of Construction Jihad, Energy, Post, Telegraph and Telephone and Agriculture as well as the housing foundation and the organization for mobilization and expansion of Education Ministry' s schools.

Unemployment Rate Seen To Drop Steadily

LD2608162595 Tehran IRNA in English 1604 GMT 26 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 26 (IRNA) — Over 21,591,000 shares (33 percent) of industrial and production units have been offered to workers so far, the labour and social affairs ministry announced here today.

A report released on the occasion of Government Week (August 24- 31), said the unemployment rate dropped down to 11.4 percent by the end of the first 5-year development plan from 15.9 in 1989.

It added that expansion of training courses offered by technical and vocational organizations during the first 5-year plan showed a record 312 percent growth with 1,441,943 people undergoing such courses.

The number of educational centers, on the other hand, rose up to 120 from 65 in 1989 and in the next five years 193 new centers are expected to be set up.

Economic Stability Said Essential for Development

*LD3008114795 Tehran IRNA in English
1124 GMT 30 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 30, IRNA — Officials should understand that economic stability is a crucial ingredient of economic development and should avoid a seesaw policy, said the morning newspaper 'TEHRAN TIMES' here Wednesday [30 August].

The English-language paper called for an initial thorough analysis of the economic situation to avoid later fluctuations in policy.

The paper referred to the latest suggestion of the economic council which was to stabilize its economic policies in order to ensure a sustained development and noted "in the broad outlines of next year's budget we come across the concept of social justice."

"Discipline in finance and economic is welcome. It is incumbent upon the government to eradicate financial corruption through a just distribution of wealth in the society," stressed the paper.

"It would be relatively easy to take punitive action against corruption if it weren't for those with influence who try to tilt the judicial process to their advantage."

Referring to the "biggest financial scandal of the country" (the Bank Saderat rls. 1,230 million embezzlement), the editorial supported the court's verdict which convicted one of the culprits to death and two others to life imprisonment as "a step in the right direction."

What the officials should not forget is that their promise of social justice, economic discipline, and stability in economic policies "must not only be in black and white. They should be realized in our society," concluded the paper.

Ban on Mohtashami Speech Blamed on 'Venomous Elements'

*NC2908111695 Tehran SALAM in Persian
20 Aug 95 p 2*

[Commentry by Iraj Sharafzadeh: "Behind the News Headlines"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It was reported last Wednesday [16 August] that a ban was imposed on the speech and roundtable session that Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashami was to give at the Teacher Training University in Tehran. Once again pressure groups have put into question the country's current political atmosphere.

The aforementioned roundtable was arranged by the Islamic Association of the Teacher Training University in Tehran. Engineer Morteza Nabavi, Tehran deputy and head of the Majles' economic affairs and finance division, was to have debated "the current circumstances regarding the revolution" with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashami.

The Islamic Association, which organized roundtable, had coordinated the event with the University's chancellor and the deputy of the Vali-ye Faqih [supreme jurisconsult] a month ago. All of them were well aware of the event scheduled for 16 August and of the participants' identities. So it is worth discussing which group or faction was responsible for preventing Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashami from entering the University and participating in the roundtable.

This all occurred when Washington and the so-called human rights organizations claimed there was a lack of political and social freedom in our country and denigrated the Islamic Revolution and system in their mass media under this pretext. This ban on the university roundtable does not conform to the remarks by the late imam (peace be on him) who repeatedly insisted on the politicizing of the university and the students and the airing of differing viewpoints in an academic and scientific atmosphere.

A while ago some scholarly individuals in the Interior Ministry expressed their views regarding parties' freedom and the mode of groups' political activity. However, one cannot rejoice unless such slogans are accompanied by action, and the attitude toward the roundtable has further dimmed the luster of such views.

As evidenced by the incident, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Mohtashami was to speak on the "current circumstances of the revolution." The highlights of his speech were: to stress that no humiliating ties should be forged with Washington, to insist on the principles and values of the revolution and on the Islamic injunctions, to expose the faction and school of thought that is striving to suppress the historical decree of his eminence Imam Khomeyni (peace be on him) on Salman Rushdie, and to denounce the handful of notorious individuals in the country who are willing to facilitate the infiltration of U.S. elements and agents into our foreign policy, cultural, and other departments.

Now the question arises: Which individual or faction tried to prevent the discussion of such issues with the enlightened students? It is obvious that those responsible for preventing the speech and political roundtable (which had been coordinated earlier) are those in the universities in general, and in the Teacher Training university in particular, whose objectives and motives contradict what was to be discussed in the speech. They saw it as detrimental to their school of thought and faction.

The elections for the fifth term of the Islamic Majles are to begin in six months. Prior to the elections, groups, institutions, and organizations should freely discuss differences in their respective viewpoints and should assess and debate the country's social, economic, political, and cultural issues before the people who will vote for them. For this reason such a venomous campaign to undermine the revolution's credibility in the eyes of the international community and its illogical and primitive insistence on driving the proponent of the imam's line from the country's political scene is most unfortunate.

In any case the growth and blossoming of the revolution and the system lies in greater support from the people and in the country's pristine political atmosphere. More growth should occur in an atmosphere devoid of the poisonous propaganda of those who are providing grist for the traitorous enemies' mills.

However, the ban on Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin's entry into the university premises and on his speech and the political roundtable once again sounds the bell warning of venomous elements in the country opposed to the revolution and the line of the imam who are hatching plots against the revolution, the system, and all the supporters of the imam's line.

Pakistan

Ministry 'Strongly' Condemns Attack on Sarajevo

BK2908133095 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan has strongly condemned the barbaric Serb attack on the peaceful residents of Sarajevo, which has resulted in immense loss of life and injuries to civilians. A statement issued by the Foreign Ministry said the shelling of Sarajevo constitutes a flagrant violation of all relevant UN resolutions pertaining to safe areas and a willful defiance of decisions of the United Nations and NATO to ensure the sanctity of safe areas. It said the Serbs are once again testing the will of the international community to stand by its commitment, especially at this critical juncture when diligent efforts are being made to explore further avenues of peace in Bosnia.

Bhutto Condemns 'Cowardly Attack'

BK3008031695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The prime minister has condemned the cowardly attack by Serb forces on Sarajevo in Bosnia-Herzegovina in which more than 37 people were killed and 85 injured. In a condolence message to the Bosnian prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto told the international community that those committing such barbaric act must be punished. She said that the killing of such a large number of Bosnian people will be mourned in Pakistan as well.

Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali has also sent a similar message to his Bosnian counterpart. He said that such recurrent barbaric acts by Serbs reveal how the Bosnian people have been subjected to injustice through the imposition of an arms embargo on them.

In a statement in Jidda, Dr. Hamid Algabid, secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, has also strongly condemned the attack and urged major Western powers to take effective steps and allow NATO air strikes to end the Serb oppression.

Prime Minister Views Karachi, U.S. Ties, India

BK2908140995 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said her government is ready to go an extra mile for encouraging a political solution of the Karachi situation. Talking to Islamabad-based correspondents of foreign media, the prime minister said today the government is ready to take political and economic measures for accommodating those Altaf Group who believe in nonviolent ways for finding solutions of problems. She said other things can be worked out provided the politics of violence is eschewed to make political negotiations succeed. The prime minister said whatever they wish to gain, they can gain only through dialogue and one can also discuss the power-sharing formula in Sindh.

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto hoped her government would be able to convince the Altaf Group people to give up their policy of violence, as the citizens of Karachi and those living elsewhere in the country are fed up with the violence that has damaged the economy. The prime minister, however, cautioned that political dialogue will not lead to immediate dramatic changes, as no political process culminates overnight into agreement. Agreements take time and the process of time helps soften the attitude of the parties; helps to find what are the more important political objectives and what are the lesser ones.

During her meeting with the foreign media correspondents, the prime minister touched upon a number of issues, including the country's economic situation, Pakistan-American relations, and the situation in the region in the context of Pakistan-India relations.

Referring to the visit of the American Senators Hank Brown and Arlen Specter, the prime minister said they held useful talks with the president and herself. She hoped their visit would add a new dimension to Pakistan-U.S. relations and help transform the exiting relationship between the two countries to the mutual benefit of both. About the Brown Amendment in the Pressler law regarding the supply of military equipment to Pakistan or returning the money Pakistan has already paid for the purchase of F-16 aircraft, the prime minister said the amendment is expected to be taken up by the U.S. Congress when it meets next month.

Talking about the regional situation, with particular reference to relations between India and Pakistan, the prime minister said Kashmir is the main irritant between the two countries. We have urged upon India to solve the Kashmir issue through meaningful dialogue and implement UN Security Council resolutions on Kashmir. She said there can be no dialogue with India unless the Kashmir problem is on the agenda of the talks.

Report Cites 'Sources' on Interest in French Jets

BK3008100095 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 30 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Shakil Shaikh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — Following the non-delivery of F-16 multi-role combat aircraft by the United States, Pakistan is likely to start formal negotiations with France for acquiring 30 or 32 High Tech Mirage 2000-5 aircraft.

Official sources told The News on Tuesday [29 August] that the total package of French aircraft will cost Pakistan around US$2.9 billion, which means US$90.5 million per copy inclusive of the weapon system and support equipment the country has selected to equip Mirage 2000-5.

Highly placed sources say France has offered Pakistan 40 Mirage aircraft but the price tag per piece is so high that the Pakistan Air Force [PAF] had to propose the acquisition of as many fighter planes as possible remaining within the financial resources. The PAF has recommended to the Defence Production Division to consider two options: Firstly, a package of 24 single seaters plus 6 or 8 dual seaters and the other option will be to order 16 single plus 4 dual seater aircraft.

However, the Defence Production Division, according to sources, has finally devised a plan to acquire 30 Mirage 2000-5s for the PAF's High-Tech Aircraft Program. The program, along with the purchase of used Mirage aircraft and co-production of Super-7 aircraft, was reportedly approved in mid-1995 meetings of the Defence Committee of the Cabinet (DCC).

The whole exercise has been completed and now the stage is set for formal negotiations with French authorities on the financial side of one of the major defence deals of the country, said official sources who believe a Pakistani team will visit Paris sometime in September of respond to the French offer.

The delivery of 2000-5s is not possible before the end of 1998 and that is too if the deal is signed this year. France is said to have given a very tight payment schedule spread over a period of five years.

According to sources, Dassault, a Mirage 2000-5 manufacturing firm, has asked for 20 per cent down payment during the current financial year, which means Pakistan will have to pay US$550 million. Similarly, the firm has asked Pakistan to pay two instalments each valuing 20 per cent of the total amount for the next two years.

The first batch of 10 aircraft will be delivered in 1998-99. At the time of delivery, Pakistan will be required to pay an amount of US$330 million. The last batch of 20 aircraft will be delivered in 1999-2000, with Pakistan paying the rest of the amount, US$670 million, sources revealed.

Although the prime minister's adviser on finance and economic affairs has proposed an expert panel comprising retired air chiefs be formed, official sources rule out the possibility. They argue such administrative bottlenecks will further hamper the process of acquiring the high-tech aircraft at a time when Pakistan Air Force is in a dire need of new aircraft to make the country's defence more effective.

Several sources in PAF, Defence Ministry and Cabinet laughed when asked whether any proposal to acquire 80 Mirage 2000-5, as has been reported in the press, had been floated. "It looks the art of some brokers who want to use the press to promote such absurd ideas at a time when Pakistan cannot think of paying massive price for 80 pieces," was their reaction.

Presently, Pakistan is not in a position to accept the French offer given the financial allocations to the services. "We have been working on different options which include a suggestion that France is convinced to extend the payment duration to 10 to 13 years", they said.

According to these sources, the possibility of long-term credit facility to reduce cash disbursement will also be explored. Pakistan got the facility when it struck the deal for the purchase of Agosta submarines with DCN-I of France.

Sensing PAF's financial difficulties, the prime minister has already approved additional funds for its High-Tech

Aircraft Program from the cushion available within the fixed ceiling, sources said. Recognising the importance of defence and the threat perception, she has also approved that the non-utilised funds in a particular year should be reappropriated for the next financial year," they said.

Dassault is already producing Mirage 2000-5 for the French Air Force, Taiwan and Qatar and a late decision by Pakistan would delay the delivery.

According to official sources, the PAF also wants to have one flight simulator, whose price is equivalent to that of a Mirage 2000-5.

Bhutto Blames India for Kashmir Hostage Crisis

BK2908144295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said her government is ready to go an extra mile for encouraging a political solution of the Karachi situation. She told foreign mediamen in Islamabad today that the government was ready to take political and economic measures for accommodating those Altaf Group people who believe in nonviolent ways for finding solution of the problems. The prime minister said other things can be worked out provided politics of violence is eschewed to make political negotiations succeed. She said whatever they wish to gain, they can gain only through dialogue and one could also discuss the power-sharing formula in Sindh. The prime minister expressed the hope that her government would be able to convince the Altaf Group people to give up their policy of violence as the citizens of Pakistan, including Karachi, were fed up with the violence that had damaged the national economy.

About the forthcoming UN world women's conference in Beijing, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said she would attend it to raise questions over the deep-rooted prejudice against women. She said she would speak on the issue of women and violence.

About the kidnapping of foreign hostages in occupied Kashmir, the prime minister said India was behind it. She said India engineered the kidnapping to discredit Kashmiri freedom fighters and defame Pakistan. She said India arranged the hostages taking to coincide with the recent debate in the American Senate over whether Washington should ease military and economic sanctions against Pakistan.

Replying to a question about recognition of Israel, the prime minister said first of all we would like to see a comprehensive Middle East settlement and then move in line with the consensus within the Organization of the Islamic Conference itself. Welcoming recent talks between Syria and Israel, Ms. Benazir Bhutto said she hoped these would lead to resolution of the question of Israeli-held Golan Heights and other outstanding issues.

MQM Chief Says Bhutto Cease-Fire Call 'Insincere'

BK3008092695 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 30 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — Reacting to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's suggestion of ceasefire by MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement], voiced before foreign journalists, MQM chief Altaf Hussain said it should be the government of Benazir Bhutto which should order a ceasefire of the relentless persecution of Muhajirs."

In a statement issued Tuesday [29 August], he said, "it is clear that Benazir Bhutto has made this politically motivated statement to gain time apparently for one and a half years to delay the peace in Karachi."

He said the prime minister's "planned program" of three-six month periods of delay are, therefore, a childish attempt to deceive international community.

He further said, unless the government of Benazir Bhutto comes to realise that the only way to solve the present crisis is by immediate redress of the acute suffering of the Muhajir nation, contained in MQM's 18-point charter, the present state of affairs is certainly going to continue.

He said Benazir Bhutto was most insincere in making these apparently conciliatory gestures since she neither has any intentions of attending to the genuine grievances of the Muhajir nation nor is she serious in performing her own constitutional duty towards her citizens of the country, specially its largest ethnic minority — the Muhajirs.

Talks Between Government, Altaf Group Continue

Talks Resume in Karachi

BK2908160095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Karachi this evening the government and Altaf Group began talks to restore Karachi's peace, law and order. Law Minister Professor N.D. Khan is leading the government delegation and other members of the team are Afaq Shahid and Zohair Akram Nadim. The Altaf Group side is being led by Ajmal Dehlvi, while other members of the team are Shoaib Bukhari, Tariq Javed, Qazi Khalid Ali, and Sheikh Liaqat Hussain. The last round of talks was held in Karachi on 24 July. Another round that was scheduled to be held in Islamabad on 31 July could not take place.

Negotiators Comment on Talks

BK3008023695 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The government and Altaf Group negotiating teams are to resume their talks on restoring peace in Karachi at the Sindh Governor House this afternoon. Government negotiating team leader N.D. Khan told newsmen after the talks yesterday that the two sides paid attention to making joint efforts to improve the law and order situation and held an extensive review of all issues relating to the Karachi situation. Altaf Group team leader Ajmal Dehlvi described the atmosphere at the talks as cordial and said that they reviewed the incidents during the days when the talks remained suspended. He agreed with the government negotiating team leader that as a result of today's talks some concrete proposals would emerge that would have positive effects on the Karachi situation and the country's political conditions.

Both Sides Agree To Continue Talks

BK3008094995 Islamabad THE NATION in English 30 Aug 95 p 1

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Karachi — In order to solve the law and order issue both the government and MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] (Altaf) have decided to continue the talks. Prof. N.D. Khan, Chief of the negotiating team of government and Ajmal Dehlvi his counterpart have said that talks were held in a 'pleasant' atmosphere and the second phase of the sixth round of talks would continue on Wednesday [30 August].

While jointly briefing the newsmen at the Governor's House on Tuesday evening, they said during the meeting, 21 points of the government and 18 points of the MQM(A) came under discussion. N.D. Khan terming the response of the MQM as positive said that in talks, matters relating to law and order situation in the city was the only agenda of Tuesday talks. The last round of the talks was held on July 24 which ended in a deadlock. During the fifth round of talks in Islamabad, MQM team did not participate and the sixth round of talk started after a lapse of more than one month at Governor's House on Tuesday.

N.D. Khan, however, said that details of the talks would be briefed on Wednesday. Khan said that both the parties discussed law and order situation and the joint measures to be taken for restoration of peace. Regarding the share of MQM in the provincial government, he said 'we could discuss the matter in the coming session'.

Ajmal Dehlvi in reply to a question said that for maintenance of law and order, his party is best. It all depends on the government in this regard. He reiterated his demand that the government must stop state terrorism against MQM workers.

He expressed the hope that the talks will produce positive results. Answering a question, Ajmal Dehlvi said that instead of talking about the talks of first day the journalists should concentrate on Wednesday's talks as the sixth round of the talks is inconclusive.

About the Prime Minister's statement that MQM should ceasefire, he said it is the statement of party's leader and its answer will also be given by MQM chief. 'I am the chief of the negotiating team.'

He, however, conveyed message to the Muhajir community to remain united and added that 'victory will be ours'. Earlier, before the start of the talks, MQM negotiating team held close door meeting and discussed the pros and cons of the situation.

Altaf Group Members Said Arrested by Karachi Police

BK2908153795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Karachi police have arrested Sher Afghan, a former councillor of the Altaf Group, and Shahid Bashir, formerly in charge of one of the group's units. They have been involved in a number of cases of murder, attempted murder, and arson. The police also arrested 68 other people, recovering arms, narcotics, and stolen goods.

Agreement Signed for Privatization of Power Plant

BK2708140195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 27 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Privatization Commission and the Kot Addu hydro-electric power labor union signed an agreement in Islamabad today, paving the way for privatization of multi-billion rupees power plant. Privatization of Kot Addu power station will lessen the debt burden of WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority] by $756 million as repayment of loan at an increased markup of 14 percent will also become the responsibility of the buyer. The agreement signed today will not only give a positive signal to the investors and buyers, both from home and abroad, but will also give a big boost to the privatization process initiated by the government.

Editorial Opposes Sale of Power Plant

BK2808140195 Islamabad NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 28 Aug 95 p 10

[Editorial: "Sale of Kot Addu Power Station"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan's WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority] Hydroelectric Central Labor Union said in a meeting with the NAWA-I-WAQT/NATION that the sale of a profitable unit would never have occurred if our National Assembly members and politicians had not been so noncooperative and insensitive. The people will now have to buy electricity at a higher price. The issue of the privatization of the Kot Addu Power Station has been hanging for eight months. During this period, the station has been closed down many times due to protests by WAPDA workers. The government has continued its efforts to regain control over the situation. Essentially, railways and power generation — and for that matter the PTC (Pakistan Telecommunication Corporation) — are the important departments on which the essential infrastructure of the country depends. All over the world, even in countries where the economy is dominated by the private sector and government interference is at its lowest, offices have been set up to administration such departments. These departments have not been completely sold to foreign companies, nor have there been any plans to do so. Although it is good to involve the private sector in development and production activities in Pakistan, it is not correct to mortgage sensitive institutions to foreigners through this type of privatization. Even if they are being mortgaged for the sake of financial benefit, we do not see any benefit arising from the privatization of the Kot Addu power station. This is already a profitable unit; the per unit cost of power generation is between 86 and 90 paisas. This power is sold at a rate of 5 rupees per unit. Is it a joke on consumers or a disgrace to our experts that the unit is being sold? Though the workers and the Privatization Commission have reached an agreement — it is said that according to the proposed package, the workers will get a 90-100 percent raise in salaries and allowances — in principle, it is still wrong that power generation and supply units should be placed in the hands of foreigners. Only 26 percent of the shares of this unit have been sold, so a change of management is unjustified. Foreigners should not be allowed to interfere to the extent that even the government could be alienated. These foreign contractors will then employ cheap labor no matter where it comes from. It is feared that a feeling of deprivation might emerge among the local population; this matter could then take a different turn. In any case, the government should review its policy. There is a great difference between giving factories and installations to our own people and leasing them out to foreigners. This difference should be kept in mind for the sake of national security.

Editorial Condemns Police Torture Cells

95AS0472A Lahore MUSAWAT in Urdu 13 Jul 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Matter for Concern: The Death of a Prisoner in a Torture Cell Run By the Police"]

[FBIS Translated Text] An incident published in the press a few days ago reveals the brutal methods being employed by the police. According to the report, a prisoner in the Gulshan Ravi police station was taken to a private torture cell and subjected to such violence that he died. Later, to expunge the record, [the police] wrapped the body in a sack and threw it into a canal. In order to persuade the family of the prisoner to accept the compensation offered, certain friends of the prisoner were placed in the private torture cell even though they were not under arrest. The family members of the slain man were then told that if they did not accept the sum offered in compensation, charges would be brought against them and they would be killed [under the pretext that they were] resisting the police.

This news item regarding the Gulshan Ravi police station should give pause to those high officials who have been suggesting that the police should be given greater powers. There have been reports in the past as well of private torture cells owned by the police and it was recently revealed that the SHO of Ravi Road police station was running a private jail.

If one looks at the reasons for these torture cells and private jails run by employees of the police department, the fact becomes obvious that their intention is to intimidate respectable citizens and extract bribes from them and to sabotage certain court orders. In view of the death of a prisoner in Gulshan Ravi police station and the police attempt to coerce the family into accepting the compensation money, the government should take measures against the chief of that police station and, in order to prevent any such incidents occurring in the future, establish, in addition to the lower courts of law, a high level judicial commission which would take action against employees implicated in such actions and hand out the punishment they deserve.

Editorial Calls MQM Leader National Criminal

95AS0472B Lahore MUSAWAT in Urdu 20 Jul 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Altaf Hussain is a National Criminal; Expediency Should Not Become the Reason for Not Arresting Him"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Federal Minister of the Interior, retired Major General Nasirullah Khan Babar, during a conversation with journalists stated what his position was in regard to Altaf Hussain; he said that following the sentence pronounced by the court, Altaf Hussain was now a criminal and therefore he would be arrested by the Interpol after a period of time. The minister placed the responsiblity for disturbing Karachi's law and order on Altaf Hussain and some of his terrorists and said that only one group in Karachi was armed and these individuals were using their weapons to massacre unarmed civilians.

It is true that at this time, negotiations are in progress between the government and Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM] to restore law and order; however, certain circles are reportedly trying to convey the impression to the nation that following the success of these negotiations, the government would allow national criminals who have been sentenced by the court to go free. It was thus necessary that a member of the government should explain the government's position to the people and the statement of the minister of the interior was a link in the chain. The minister was quite correct when he said that it was necessary to bring Altaf Hussain back as a national criminal. The fact is that Benazir Bhutto's brother will appear before the highest courts to prove his innocence and Altaf Hussain also should clear himself before the highest courts.

As regards Altaf Group's complicity in terrorism, the fact is that the terrorists who have been arrested so far have themselves confessed that they have been committing acts of terrorism on Altaf Hussain's orders. Thus, what the minister of the interior said was not incorrect but a statement of facts.

Sri Lanka

PRC Minister Pays Visit, Meets With Officials

BK2908125095 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] China has assured Sri Lanka continued support in economic development as well as political matters. This assurance was given by visiting Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan when he had official talks with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs D.P. Wickremasinghe. The Chinese minister said that a delegation would be sent soon to study the situation with regard to infrastructure development. He further assured that the Bank of China would seriously consider the opening of a branch in Colombo. He pointed out that China valued the sacrifice made by Sri Lanka in the early 1950's when rubber was traded with rice. Responding to Sri Lanka raising the matter of trade imbalance, the Chinese side undertook to send a trade and investment delegation in the near future to explore the possibility of establishing manufacturing industries in Sri Lanka. The two sides also discussed matters relating to the China-Sri Lanka Joint Commission which is scheduled to be held in October. Both sides agreed on the importance of this for future cooperation.

A Foreign Ministry release says the talks were conducted in an extremely cordial atmosphere. The Chinese vice foreign minister also had talks on a wide range of international issues with Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar. Minister Kadirgamar briefed him on the initiatives taken by the government to settle the northeast crisis. The Chinese minister noted that they looked forward to peace and stability in Sri Lanka. He assured China's support for Sri Lanka's efforts to settle the problem.

During his stay, the Chinese minister also paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike; the speaker, K.B. Ratnayake; the minister of trade, commerce, and food, Kingsley Wickremaratna. He left the country during the weekend after a two-day official visit.

'Analysts' on Refusal of Official Devolution Proposals

BK2808144995 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Political analysts say that the attempt by certain political parties to reject the proposals for devolution put forward by the government in its entirety is unacceptable. The former director of the Catholic Communications Center and priest in charge of Kayangollewa parish, Reverend Father Paul Fernando, says that if parties reject the proposals for narrow political gains it would be a tragedy. He said that unlike the previous regime who put forward the proposals to solve the ethnic problem only to a group of parliamentarians, the present government has very democratically and openly put forward the proposals directly to the people. Some of the proposals need revision. However, these have to be done with the consent of the people and not at personal level. Father

Fernando further said that it is the duty of the intelligent to educate the citizens regarding the proposals.

S. Balakrishnan of the Constitutional Reforms [Committee] said that the proposals put forward by the government to resolve the ethnic problem cannot be rejected by the United National Party. Mr. Balakrishnan said that a multiparty council should forward the proposals to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. He said that the civilians in Jaffna face severe hardships and it was the duty of the government to provide their needs. The civilian population in Jaffna have responded positively to the government's proposals. It is their belief that these proposals would safeguard their rights and dignity within a united Sri Lanka.

Buddhist Priests Comment on Devolution Proposals

*BK2708130495 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 27 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Mahanayake chief Buddhist priests of the Malwatte and Asgiriya chapters have issued a special statement expressing their views on the government's devolution proposals. Referring in detail to the set of proposals, the Mahanayakes have mentioned several points that the president should focus on. They said that the basic need is to defeat the concept of the Tamil Eelam state. The government should reestablish its control in the north and the east. Every possible measure should be taken to defeat terrorism in view of the welfare of all communities and to safeguard the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country.

In their statement, the Mahanayakes have requested that the proposal should not be presented to parliament until terrorism was eradicated and there was a peaceful environment in the country. They said that it is appropriate that constitutional reforms and provincial council proposals be presented separately.

'Mass Movement' Appeals for UN Aid To End Conflict

*BK2908132695 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 29 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The mass movement in the north — comprising citizen committees, Tamil teachers unions, fisheries cooperative societies, and religious organizations — have appealed for UNO [UN Organization] intervention to bring about a situation in Sri Lanka conducive to resuming negotiations between the Sri Lanka Government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam]. This movement which has made this appeal to the UNO through the UNO development consultant, Ronald Hesten, has emphasized the need for lifting the economic embargo on the north, halting military operations in the northeast, and for a negotiated settlement to the ethnic issue. Our correspondent, quoting sources from Jaffna, said the movement has also said in the appeal that there cannot be a solution to the problem without the participation of the LTTE.

The correspondent also said that the LTTE held commemorative ceremonies in the peninsula and Wanni yesterday to mark the death of 180 cadres, including 128 female Tigers, in the battle of Weli Oya on 28 July. Military sources said that over 300 Tigers were killed in this battle. The LTTE clandestine radio announced yesterday that the LTTE collected 1,385,000 [currency not specified] for its war fund yesterday.

Red Cross Agrees To Resume Escorting Ships

*BK2908135595 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English
1045 GMT 29 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] After satisfactory discussions between the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC] and the Sri Lanka Government, the ICRC has decided immediately to resume its activity of escorting the ships chartered by the commissioner general of essential services and the government agent in Jaffna, assisting thus the government in providing essential items to the civilian population living in the north of the country.

Approximately 8,000 metric tons of cargo will be shipped within the next four weeks, commencing today. MV [Motor Vessel] Kalyani with 2,200 metric tons of food cargo is scheduled to leave today and is expected to commence unloading at Point Pedro on the second of next month. MV Maho with 6,900 barrels of kerosene oil and 1,000 metric tons of food cargo is scheduled to leave tomorrow and will commence unloading at Point Pedro from 2 September 1995. MV (?Handala) will take two consignments of 1,950 metric tons each of flour and is scheduled to load and leave Trincomalee for Point Pedro on the second of next month and to commence unloading on 6 September, and the second voyage is expected to unload 1,950 metric tons of flour by the 15th.

'Military Source' Reports on Raid Against 'Rebels'

*BK2808165195 Hong Kong AFP in English
1553 GMT 28 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] COLOMBO, Aug 28 (AFP) — Police commandos backed by air cover attacked rebel guerrillas in eastern Sri Lanka, killing at least 21 rebels while losing three commandos, military officials here said Monday [28 August].

Special Task Force (STF) commandos launched the offensive in the Batticaloa district Sunday against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a day after the rebels failed to overrun a task force base there, the sources said.

"We have confirmation that 21 terrorists were killed," a military source said. "One of them is an area leader. We fear that three STF men were also killed in the confrontation."

The rebels admitted their top commander for the eastern Ampara district, Tiger Lieutenant Colonel Ranjan, was killed during the battle and claimed to have killed two captains and a lieutenant.

The rebels also said they carried out a retaliatory attack against an army bunker in the northwestern Mannar district Monday and killed two soldiers.

The air force was called in to bomb rebel reinforcements and support ground troops who confronted the LTTE in the jungles of Kangikudichchiaru Sunday.

On Saturday, the task force claimed another 36 rebels for the loss of six security men, also in Batticaloa district.

The failed bid to attack the task force camp was the latest setback for the rebels, who lost more than 300 fighters in an attack against the main Weli Oya military base in the northeast last month.

The LTTE is leading a protracted campaign to establish an independent homeland in the island's northeast where the Tamil minority is concentrated. More than 50,000 people have died in the conflict since 1972.

Reportage on Recent Attacks by LTTE Rebels

Policemen Killed in 'Pre-Dawn Assault'

BK2908041495 Hong Kong AFP in English
0402 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Aug 29 (AFP) - Tamil Tiger guerrillas attacked a police post in northeastern Sri Lanka on Tuesday [29 August], killing at least 15 constables, defence sources here said.

Gunmen of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) carried out a pre-dawn assault against the police post just outside the Trincomalee port town, the sources said.

They said 11 constables died in the initial attack and another four were killed when the rebels exploded a landmine as police were taking away their wounded to hospital.

The latest LTTE attack came after police commandos carried out successful operations against the rebels in the neighbouring Batticaloa district over the weekend and claimed killing 57 guerrillas.

The LTTE is leading a protracted campaign for an independent homeland in the island's northeast where the Tamil minority is concentrated. More than 50,000 have died in bitter fighting over the past 23 years.

AFP Reports on Gunboat Attack

BK2908142495 Hong Kong AFP in English
1413 GMT 29 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Aug 29 (AFP) — Tamil rebels were suspected of destroying a navy gunboat off northeastern Sri Lanka Tuesday [29 August] as 49 security personnel and rebels were killed and more than 100 wounded in renewed violence, military officials said.

The Israeli-built Dvora gunboat was closing in on a suspected vessel of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) when it was blown up off the coast of Mullaitivu, military officials said.

"We believe the Tigers carried out a suicide attack against the gunboat," a military official here said. "No details are available on how it happened. But all 12 crewmen are missing."

The latest setback for security forces came hours after the LTTE killed 10 soldiers and 17 constables in two separate incidents in the island's embattled northern Jaffna peninsula and in the northeast Trincomalee district.

A brief military statement said soldiers on foot patrol in the Jaffna peninsula were confronted by rebels and fought a fierce 45-minute gun battle in which 10 soldiers were killed. There were no reports of rebel casualties.

In the Trincomalee district, LTTE gunmen carried out a major pre-dawn offensive against a police station in the former tourist resort of Nilaweli Tuesday, killing nine constables for the loss of an estimated 22 of their own men, police said.

A police spokesman said that another eight constables were killed when the rebels exploded a land-mine as the police were taking their wounded to hospital.

A total of 77 policemen were wounded in the attack and the blast that followed. Police claimed that 33 rebels were also wounded.

The upsurge in violence came two days after the security forces claimed killing 57 LTTE rebels, including a top leader, in weekend battles that also left six Special Task Force commandos dead.

The renewed bloodshed came despite political moves to end the protracted separatist war that has claimed more than 50,000 lives since the birth of the Tamil militant movements in 1972.

Official sources said the government was planning a major onslaught against the LTTE before the onset of monsoon rains in October while the rebels have also announced they were gearing to take on the military.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who has ruled out fresh talks with the LTTE, told newspapers here last week that the military action against the guerrillas was aimed at enforcing her autonomy plan to resolve the ethnic conflict.

The navy is awaiting the delivery of six Israeli-built Dvora class gunboats while the airforce is expecting a fleet of transport and attack helicopters from a Russian supplier, the sources said.

Kumaratunga's peace bid, which seeks to turn Sri Lanka into a federal state in all but name and grant more powers to Tamils in exchange for ethnic peace, is opposed by Tigers as well as radicals among the majority Sinhala community.

The LTTE pulled out of peace talks with Kumaratunga and ended a three-month truce on April 19 to resume its struggle for independence.

Ferry Seized With 121 Passengers

BK3008080295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0745 GMT 30 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Colombo, Aug 30 (AFP) — Sri Lanka's Tamil separatist guerrillas seized a passenger ferry with 121 Tamil civilians aboard and blew up two navy gunboats which came to its aid, killing all 21 sailors aboard, defence sources here said Wednesday [30 August].

The separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) anchored the government-chartered vessel, the Iris Mona, off the northeastern coast of Mullaitivu but the fate of passengers was not known, the sources said.

"The navy tried to send more gunboats to see what is going on but they can't get near because the LTTE is firing heavy calibre guns from the coast," a defence source said.

The source said the navy believed the rebels captured the unarmed Iris Mona early Tuesday in a bid to draw the two Israeli-built Dvora gunboats towards their gun positions and destroy them late Tuesday.

"It looks like they got the gunboats to get near the Iris Mona and then used suicide bombers to blast the gunboats," the official said, adding that another patrol boat saw the gunboats "exploding in a ball of fire."

The passengers aboard the ferry were Tamil civilians travelling from the northeastern port of Trincomalee to government-held areas of the island's Jaffna peninsula, where the rebels dominate.

The rebels are opposed to civilians living in areas under the control of government security forces, who have been trying to expand territory on the peninsula under their control.

The LTTE's clandestine radio, the Voice of Tigers, Wednesday accepted responsibility for blasting the two gunboats but made no mention about the ferry.

The spectacular attacks against the navy came only hours after the LTTE killed 10 soldiers and 17 constables in two separate incidents in the island's embattled northern Jaffna peninsula and north-east Trincomalee district.

The soldiers were on foot patrol when they were attacked by the rebels who killed 10 of them in a 45-minute gun battle, the military said. The Tigers said they lost three men.

Earlier, in Trincomalee district, Tiger rebels raided a police station, killing nine constables but lost 22 of their own men, police said. Another 33 rebels were wounded, they said.

Eight other constables were killed when the rebels exploded a land-mine as police were taking away their wounded, police said.

A total of 77 police were admitted to hospital after the at@ack.

The latest upsurge in violence comes only two days after security forces said they killed 57 Tiger rebels, including a top leader, in clashes which also claimed the lives of six Special Task Force commandos.

The LTTE pulled out of peace talks with Kumaratunga and ended a three-month truce on April 19 to resume their struggle for independence.

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